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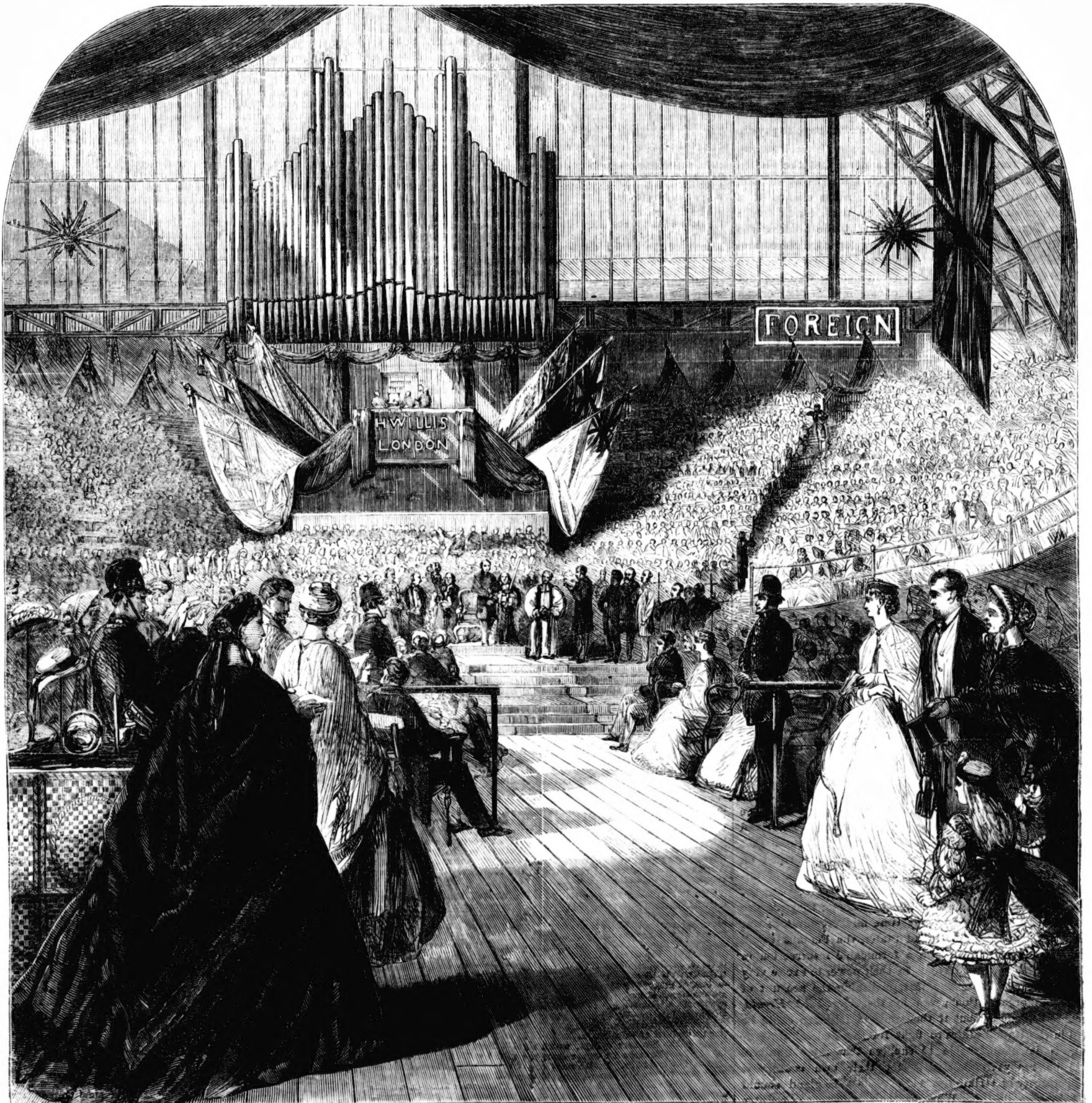
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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE Union Chargeability Bill has passed the House of Commons, and its fate now rests with the House of Lords. It is to be hoped, for the sake of the House of Lords itself, that its decision will be favourable to the measure; or the enemies of the Upper Chamber will be able to say with justice that the interests of the labourer are least regarded in an assembly composed almost exclusively of great landowners. If the

tillers of the soil cannot look to the owners of the soil for relief, their case will be bad indeed. Under the present system of "chargeability" it is certain that the labourer may be treated very harshly without any breach of the law being committed. A bad landlord is tempted to keep him at the distance of at least one parish from the scene of his daily work, so that when his ability to work fails he may not become chargeable to those who profited by his labour. A

good landlord would enter into no speculation of this kind, and consequently would not be affected by the passing of the new law. The only landlords whose interests would suffer by it, are those who cannot resist the temptation to save their own poor rates by wasting the health and strength of the labourer. Some of the opponents of the bill argue that the labourer cannot possibly benefit by it, and statistics are quoted on both sides which prove nothing, except that



THE PRINCE OF WALES OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL REFORMATORY EXHIBITION IN THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON, 1865.

statistics ingeniously and boldly treated may be made to prove anything. One thing is certain, that, as the law stands, the art of keeping poor rates down is the art of keeping cottages down. The way to keep cottages down is to pull them down as soon as they are empty, and never to build them up again; and this, in many parts of the country, has undoubtedly been done to a very great extent. As much as possible has been got out of the labourer, and as little as possible given in return. The agricultural bees cannot be killed off when they are no longer wanted; but, in many cases, those for whose benefit they have made the land productive care no more for them when their toil is once at an end than if they had ceased to exist. No law can compel a proprietor to behave humanely to those who work on his estate; but the great object now is to change a law which holds out inducements to mean, selfish landowners to behave unfeelingly. A few country gentlemen grumble at the measure as an uncalled-for interference with the relations now existing between labour and property; which is only another way of saying that they claim the right of doing what they please with their own houses and land. They can still exercise this right, however, when the bill has become law. They may still, if they think fit, pull down every cottage on their estates; but there will be no sort of advantage in doing so, and the labourer will, no doubt, be allowed to remain in the parish where it is his lot to work, where, whether he leave it or not, the landowner will all the same be taxed for his support.

Besides depriving the bad proprietor of the temptation now existing to destroy the cottages of the peasantry, it would be very desirable to devise some means for encouraging good and liberal proprietors to provide labourers with cottage accommodation of a superior kind. The great evil now is that, when a landowner lays out money on cottages, he is obliged to do so at his own personal expense, and not at the expense of the estate. If the possessor of a life interest in an estate could make charges upon it for building cottages, as he can now for draining the land, the permanent welfare of the peasant would perhaps be more seriously considered than it is now. At present, unless a proprietor be both very rich and very liberal, it is scarcely to be expected that he will make sacrifices for the peasantry on his estate by which his successors, as well as himself, will profit, but of which he alone will have to pay the cost.

It appears from the last American news that the United States Government look upon the civil war as at an end, but that there is, at the same time, some chance of a renewed resistance on the part of the Confederate troops now in Texas. It is to be hoped that the leaders who are still holding out are only waiting for conditions, and that the terms accepted by General Lee will be offered to and accepted by every Southern commander who has not yet surrendered. The reports of an intended American expedition to Mexico prove to be, in a great measure, unfounded. An expedition of filibusters may, and probably will, be got up; but it appears certain that there will be no official interference in Mexican affairs on the part of the United States. General Rosecranz has publicly disavowed the project so confidently attributed to him; but we learn from his speech that the army of Juarez is being largely recruited in America, and, if the illegal enlistment be allowed to continue, France will be compelled to protest against it. Some of the French official and semi-official papers are already complaining on the subject, and it is said that an explanation has been formally demanded from the United States Government. It is not likely, however, that any serious steps will be taken until the Emperor returns from Algeria. A statement made, a few days ago, by the *Patrie*, to the effect that an admiral was about to proceed to New York with orders to put a stop to this recruiting business at once, has since been explicitly contradicted by the *Patrie* itself. Indeed, if the Americans chose to continue it, a single ship, even though commanded by an admiral, would scarcely deter them. It would take a fleet, at the very least, to do so.

If the official papers of France are unsafe guides as to the intentions of the Imperial Government, the remarkably independent journals of America afford no clue whatever as to the policy of the United States. Otherwise, we should have to prepare for an invasion of Ireland, with which the *New York Herald*, among other journals, threatens us in case the demands made upon the British Government in connection with the Alabama should remain uncomplied with. Our American contemporary gives us full warning, and publishes a long account of the manner in which the Irish in the United States are being organised. The organisation is, we are told, being extended to Ireland itself; and American readers are gravely assured that sixty-five thousand Fenians are being secretly drilled on the tops of inaccessible mountains and in the depths of unfathomable valleys. This is, of course, very absurd. But the projects of the Fenians are not only amusing; they are also alarming. If we should at any time find ourselves at war with France, or with the United States, the Fenians would not be able, perhaps, to get up a formidable insurrection in Ireland, but they would have it in their power to excite very serious troubles. The *Times*, in republishing the account of the Fenian organisation given by the *New York Herald*, affects to ridicule it; but if thousands of Irishmen could be found in the United States to fight for the Federal Government, is it unreasonable to suppose that large numbers would be ready to do battle for their own country if an opportunity of striking a blow against England should really present itself? Whether their unfortunate country

would profit by their interference, is quite another question. The existence of an organised body of Irish emigrants on the other side of the Atlantic, maintaining the same attitude towards us that the emigrants from Poland maintain towards Russia, is a serious danger, against which England can only guard herself by remedying every just complaint that the Irish in Ireland may yet have to make. The Fenians do not, it is true, aim at redressing grievances; their object is to avenge wrongs. But a really contented population could never be moved by stories of wrongs done to their ancestors some generations ago.

INTERNATIONAL REFORMATORY EXHIBITION.

ON Friday, the 19th inst., an interesting display of the work of industrial schools from all parts of England and the Continent was formally opened by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. The building was crowded in every part not devoted to the exhibition, which was displayed in the galleries and main centre hall with considerable effect and good taste. Their Excellencies the French, Turkish, and Prussian Ambassadors and the Saxon Minister were present, with Count Maffei to represent the Marquis d'Azeglio, the Italian Minister. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Shaftesbury; the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P.; the Hon. Arthur Kinnaid, M.P.; with the Lord Mayor, Mr. Sheriff Dakin, and Mr. Sheriff Beesley, were also on the dais, round which the fine orchestra rises at the north end of the hall. In this orchestra the children of the various schools in connection with the Reformatory and Refuge Union were ranged to the number of nearly 1000, and, before the arrival of the Prince, gave a selection of choral music, which was listened to with marked attention and elicited the applause it really well deserved. The chorus, "Thanks be to God," is worthy of special mention for the exquisitely good time in which it was rendered. Shortly after four o'clock his Royal Highness arrived at the building, and was received by the Prime Minister, the foreign Ambassadors, and the Earl of Shaftesbury, and proceeded at once to the platform, where his appearance was hailed with the utmost enthusiasm by the audience. After the National Anthem had been sung, Lord Shaftesbury, as President of the Refuge Union, read an address to the Prince explanatory of the purposes of the Exhibition, to which his Royal Highness replied in appropriate terms. Prayers were then offered up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, after which, and the singing of a hymn composed by the late Prince Consort, his Royal Highness declared the Exhibition opened. The following extract from Lord Shaftesbury's address will explain the object of the Exhibition:—

The object of this Exhibition is to call general attention to the necessity for such efforts and their manifest benefit to the world, and to encourage those who in various countries are striving by practical means to help large classes of their fellow-creatures, and so to fulfil a public duty too often neglected; while it is only of late years that such efforts have been systematised by the establishment of special institutions, and have been seconded by enlightened legislation, their good results have been speedily manifest in an undoubted diminution of juvenile crime, and by many thousands of living examples preserved from evil or restored to honest ways. The value of industrial training is generally acknowledged by the managers of foreign institutions, designated as these are by so many various names. Some are called "Industrial Institutions," others "Colonies," "Depôts of Mendicity," "Houses of Correction," "Asylums," "Kinder Gartens," "Taliha Cumi," and by other titles more or less descriptive of the 200 separate establishments represented here to-day.

The Prince, accompanied by the most distinguished visitors, by the managers of the Exhibition, and the secretary, Mr. Charles, carefully went through the hall and galleries, inspecting each branch of the varied display. Although called a reformatory exhibition, the display was so far from being confined to the industrial efforts of the inmates of reformatories, that, in fact, their contributions formed but a very small portion of the entire show. It was really an exhibition of the industry of schools and refuges in all parts of the kingdom, and of similar schools in Syria, Portugal, Austria, Prussia, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Egypt, and, indeed, in almost all parts of Europe. As might be expected, among such a variety of articles brought from almost all parts of the world very many were interesting and curious; some of them remarkably good; and all, without exception, had the unusual merit of being marked at very low prices. This was especially the case with the articles sent from Württemberg—chiefly carved wooden ornaments, almost all of which were bought within an hour after the Exhibition was opened. An original feature of this display was what might be called its process department, where little boys of various working refuge schools and unions showed practically their skill in the branches of manufactures in which they have been severally educated. One of these little detachments, representing the Ragpickers' Brigade, was exceedingly interesting, and not less so were the net and mat making, printing, &c., of the children from the Home for Little Boys at Tottenham. In all these the Prince seemed to take a kind and hearty interest, and purchased so liberally as he went along as to make it a matter of wonder what he could possibly want with writing-tables, desks, wardrobes, and, indeed, all sorts of articles of furniture. Nor when thus selecting some of the best things in the collection did his Royal Highness forget the Princesses of Wales, for whom he purchased some exquisite specimens of lace and crochet work. A careful inspection of the contents of the whole building having been made, the procession which accompanied the Prince returned to the dais, when, the choir having sung "God bless the Prince of Wales," his Royal Highness bowed and departed amid hearty demonstrations of affection and respect. With an exhibition formed from the industrial efforts of upwards of a hundred schools, each of which contributes many hundred articles, it is of course impossible, in a brief notice, to attempt any description of the objects shown. It will suffice to say, therefore, that the whole was really interesting; not only interesting but original, both in its idea and in the way in which it has been carried out. The Exhibition was closed on Thursday, after having been visited by large numbers of persons of all classes.

WAGES MOVEMENT IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.—A movement is now on foot amongst the workmen in several branches of the building trade in London for the purpose of procuring an advance of 6d. per day on the present rate of wages, based on the following grounds:—The increased and increasing cost of house and room rent; the high price of butchers' meat and other provisions; the general prosperity of the trade; and the fact that in nearly all the provincial towns the wages of the building operatives have been advanced from 2s. to 3s. per week, in many cases bringing up their wages to the standard paid in the metropolis. The initiative in this movement has been taken by the stonemasons, who have adopted a memorial, to be sent to the master builders of the metropolis, requesting an advance on their present rate of wages of three farthings per hour, or about 3s. per week. A reply to this memorial is requested by the 26th inst. Other trades are moving in the same direction.

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE SOUTH.—Mr. Wendell Phillips, in a speech recently delivered at Boston, said:—"Let us remember no cause, however infamous, was ever crushed by punishing its advocates and abettors. All history proves this. There is no class of men base and coward enough, no matter what their views and purpose, to make the policy of vengeance successful. With regard to the dozen chief rebels, it will never be a practical question whether we shall hang them. Those not now in Europe will soon be there. Indeed, after paroling the bloodiest and guiltiest of all, Robert Lee, there would be little fitness in hanging any lesser wretch. Government has exchanged prisoners and acknowledged its belligerent rights. After that, gibbets are out of the question. A thousand men rule the rebellion—are the rebellion. A thousand men! We cannot hang them all. We cannot hang men in regiments. What! cover the continent with gibbets! We cannot sicken the nineteenth century with such a sight. It would sink our civilisation to the level of Southern barbarism. It would forfeit our very right to supercede the Southern system, which right is based on ours being better than theirs. To make its cornerstone the gibbet would degrade us to the level of Davis and Lee. Banish every one of these thousand rebel leaders—every one of them—on pain of death if they ever return. Confiscate every dollar and acre they own. These steps the world and their followers will see are necessary to kill the seeds of caste, dangerous State rights, and secession. Banish Lee with the rest."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Much excitement has been caused in Paris by the news of the movement in the United States for an invasion of Mexico by discharged soldiers under the pretence of emigration. The policy likely to be pursued by the Emperor, whose return from Algeria is anxiously looked for, is discussed with great interest. By some parties it is thought that he ought to withdraw his support from the Emperor Maximilian, and, of course, the French troops from Mexico, and so wash his hands of the whole affair. This, it is said, is the opinion of M. Fould, Minister of Finance. Others, again, hold that the honour both of the Emperor and of the country are involved, and that retreat is therefore impossible without a struggle to maintain the order of things in Mexico which France has set up. The Government journals, however, are endeavouring to allay the popular excitement on the subject by asserting that the enlistment of a "few emigrants" is an incident of no material importance. The journals further assert that Admiral Didot, who is about to leave for America, has received no special instructions, and merely goes out, in regular course, to relieve the Admiral at present in command on the West Indian station. Meanwhile the Emperor appears to be going through an amount of business in Algeria that speaks well for the state of his health. The officials at Toulon have been informed that his Majesty will land there about the end of the month.

AUSTRIA.

It is stated that the Emperor of Austria will certainly visit Pesth early next month.

The Vienna papers of Tuesday announce that the removal of the exceptional state of things in Hungary is imminent. The Croatian Diet will assemble on the 17th of July next.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Patriarch of Constantinople lately dispatched a Bishop to Bucharest to make a declaration that the law of civil marriage, the secularisation of convent property, and the institution of a national Roumain Church, as decreed by Prince Couza, are contrary to the doctrines of the Greek Church, and liable to the penalty of excommunication. Prince Couza, however, ordered the Bishop charged with this mission to be conducted back to the frontier by gendarmes.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 13th inst.

General Canby reports that General Dick Taylor surrendered, on the 4th inst., on the same terms as Lee. This makes an end of all Confederate armies east of the Mississippi.

Kirby Smith, who commands west of the Mississippi, had published an appeal to his soldiers, dated Shreveport, April 21, denouncing Lee's surrender, and exhorting them to stand by their colours. He says that his resources are ample to protract the struggle until foreign aid arrives, or until such time as they can secure terms worthy of a proud people. Texas papers state that upon the receipt of the news of the surrender of Lee's army mass meetings were held at Springfield and Houston, at which it was decided that the Confederate trans-Mississippi Department was sufficiently vast and replete with resources to repel invasion and establish its independence; it was therefore resolved to support President Davis and to continue the war. Official information had been received at Washington that a steamer loaded with cannon and ammunition, which left Savannah on the 29th ult., had successfully run the blockade of Galveston, Texas.

General Halleck had notified that all persons found resisting the Federal authority in his department after the 20th would be treated as robbers and outlaws. He had also instructed his subordinates to impress upon the freed men that, though privileged to select their own employers and make their own contracts for remuneration, they will be compelled to labour for the support of themselves and families.

General Banks, at New Orleans, and General Washburne, at Memphis, had prohibited paroled Confederate soldiers in their departments from wearing the Confederate uniform or carrying arms. General Thomas had directed his subordinates to notify all Confederate soldiers in his department that they must immediately surrender, or be treated as outlaws.

It had been semi-officially announced that, previous to the final reduction of the Federal army, a grand review of the entire force would take place on Manassas Plain, Virginia. To that end the several armies of occupation, as they were recalled from the scenes of their recent operations, were concentrating near Alexandria. It was said that a standing Federal army of 150,000 men will be maintained—consisting of one corps of volunteers, one corps of regulars, and two corps of negroes.

Johnston formally surrendered at Greensborough on the 29th ult. Captain Semmes was included in the surrender. Johnston's farewell address to his troops calls upon them to observe the terms of surrender and become peaceful citizens, and says that their courage and noble devotion during a long war have won the admiration of the people. The surrender of Secretary Mallory is denied.

Mr. Stanton, under date of Sunday, the 7th, directs the immediate release of all prisoners of war, except officers above the rank of Colonel, who, before the evacuation of Richmond, desired to take the oath of allegiance to the Federal Government. The oath is to be administered to them, and gratuitous transportation to their homes furnished by the Government.

President Johnson had issued a proclamation declaring the belligerent rights of the Confederates at an end, warning all nations which after sufficient time shall have elapsed for his proclamation to become generally known shall grant the hospitalities of their ports to Confederate cruisers, that it will become his duty to exclude the vessels of those nations from the ports of the United States, and to adopt such other measures as may be deemed advisable to vindicate the national sovereignty. He also issued an order prohibiting all persons appointed to authority under the Confederate Government from continuing the exercise of such authority, and providing for the establishment of loyal State government in Virginia.

President Johnson, in an address to the coloured population, had said that he trusted the time would come when all the coloured people would be assembled in one country best adapted to their condition if it should appear that they could not get along with the whites. He declared that man could not hold property in man.

Governor Vance, of Northern Carolina, in a proclamation, dated Greensborough, the 28th ult., declared that since the surrender of the principal Confederate armies further resistance to the Federal forces could only result in useless bloodshed; he therefore prohibited assemblages or actions calculated to cause excitement, and exhorted the disbanded soldiers to return to their homes and exert themselves to preserve order. Should, however, his commands be disobeyed by lawless individuals, and it became necessary for public protection, he called upon the true soldiers of the State, paroled or not, to unite in arresting or slaying the offenders. In conclusion, he avowed his determination to do his utmost to restore the civil authority of the State.

Governor Aiken, of South Carolina, had been unconditionally released.

A military commission had been appointed to try the persons charged with complicity in the assassination plot, and had commenced its sittings. The proceedings were conducted with closed doors, though daily a report of such portions of the evidence elicited as the Attorney-General deemed proper for publicity was to be officially furnished to the newspapers. The press universally denounced the secrecy of the trial. Mr. Howard, who was some time since confined in Fort Lafayette for forging a proclamation in the name of President Lincoln, has been appointed official reporter to the commission. Sanders, one of the persons denounced by the President as accessory to Mr. Lincoln's murder, has issued an address to the people of Europe, styling Johnson's proclamation mendacious and ferocious. He declares that conclusive testimony will be sent

to Europe, proving that it is founded on forged papers and suborned testimony. Jacob Thompson, another of the accused, had denied all knowledge of or complicity with the Booth conspiracy.

Jefferson Davis had not been captured. When last heard of he was at Powell Town, Hancock County, a little north-east of Milledgeville, Georgia. A close watch was being kept on the coast to prevent his escape. Washington despatches state that his complicity in the plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln can be proved conclusively; but this, of course, must be taken for what it is worth. The *New York Tribune* understands that Mr. Davis is penniless. Colonel Clark, of the Southern army, who was captured by one of the Union scouting parties while endeavouring to escape from Richmond on one of the last trains from the doomed city, asserts that he was in charge of all the specie which was removed from Richmond; that when his train broke down, and he found it impossible to get it on the track and off again, seeing the Union forces approaching, he ordered it to be set on fire, and that all his efforts to save the specie were unavailing; that the soldiers broke open the kegs, and, amid the excitement and tumult, soldiers and citizens appropriated all there was. He asserts that he knows that no other amounts of specie, not in the pockets of its owners, were taken from Richmond. He states, further, that the amount has been vastly over-estimated, and confirms the statement heretofore made by General Grant, that it amounted only to about 200,000 dols.

The enlistment of military emigrants for Mexico still continued, and large numbers of men and officers were said to be already enrolled. General Rosecranz was reported to be at the head of the movement, but he had emphatically disavowed it in a speech before the Massachusetts legislature. A Mexican emigration company had been formed in New York, with agencies throughout the United States, and had advertised for naval and military emigrants. The *New York Herald* publishes, but does not guarantee, the correctness of the following particulars:—"The managers of the company will avoid violating the neutrality laws. Emigrants are invited to settle in Sonora, under the authority of a special invitation from Juarez. They will be furnished with weapons to defend themselves. Common emigrants will receive 1000 dols. each and one hundred acres of land; captains and colonels an additional pecuniary and land compensation, according to their rank. Ortega, the chief agent of Juarez, is supplied with the necessary funds, and has the aid and sympathy of many prominent wealthy citizens in New York." The Republican press generally discountenanced the scheme, and attributed to the Democratic journals which support it a desire to involve the United States in a European war, as a diversion in favour of the Democratic party, who hope to restore the South to an influential position in the national councils. Mr. Seward was opposed to all breaches of neutrality, and it was not feared that complications would arise from this cause. Mr. Seward was said to have openly expressed himself in this sense to Mr. Johnson and the Cabinet.

MEXICO.

Newspapers from the city of Mexico of the 27th ult., and Vera Cruz of the 2nd inst., received at Havannah, states that the Republican Mexican forces, encouraged by the probably early termination of the war in the United States, had redoubled their efforts against the Imperialists, re-occupied Monterey and Saltillo, and were gaining advantages in other quarters; also that they were assisted by considerable bands of adventurers from the United States. The Emperor Maximilian, who had set out from Mexico upon an excursion, received the news of the evacuation of Richmond and the surrender of Lee at Orizaba on the 29th ult. He immediately returned to his capital, and dispatched an Ambassador to Washington.

SPEECH OF PRINCE NAPOLEON AT AJACCIO.

PRINCE NAPOLEON, in inaugurating the Bonaparte Monument at Ajaccio, Corsica, made a most remarkable speech, which has caused a profound sensation in France, and, it is said, both greatly puzzled and displeased the Government, the members of which are alleged to have been completely at a loss, in the absence of the Emperor, to know what to do with the firebrand thrown out by his Majesty's cousin. It appears, however, that the Prince's discourse has not produced on the Emperor the effect anticipated by the Empress Regent and the Ministers. His Majesty has taken the matter very coolly, and probably thinks that the democratic vehemence of his cousin will rally round himself the more backward Conservatives. The Court is said to be angry, because the Emperor is not as angry as itself; the Prince, because the Court is angry and the Emperor indifferent; and the Ministers, not knowing whether, in disavowing the Prince, they may not in reality be disavowing their master, are as angry as the others. The following is an abridged report of the speech:—

Having given a biographical sketch of the Bonaparte family, the Prince proceeded to review the life and acts of Napoleon I., and this brought him, almost at the outset, to speak of the Continental blockade directed against England as "the true source of the misfortunes of the empire." "Picture to yourselves," said the Prince, "the position of Napoleon in 1810: he is ruler of the kingdom of Italy and the Illyrian provinces; he reigns by his kinsfolk over Spain, Holland, Westphalia, and Naples; he directs the Confederation of the Rhine, of which he is protector; he occupies and defends the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, that nucleus of Poland; he is the mediator of the Helvetic Republic. The finances of the empire are prosperous: Napoleon has re-established in them order, regularity, and honesty; by a foresight, a prudence, a hatred of speculation, and a capacity for business, which had so great a share in his success. This is the more remarkable when we consider how small was the advance made by economic science in his day, compared with the enormous progress it has achieved in ours. It is in this branch of human knowledge that the present defies all comparison with the past and is truly superior to it. With an imperfect financial science, he found means to re-establish credit, to pay his countless armies. He stood his ground against his difficulties; in 1814 the invaders found 200 millions in the cellars of the Tuilleries." This was the culminating point of his power, and the fatal epoch of his marriage with an Austrian Princess—an alliance "opposed to the very genius of France. The Austrian alliance will never be a French policy." In 1810 the empire still lacked liberty; but the principles of the Revolution were secured, and Frenchmen enjoy them at this day. "But, though political liberty did not yet exist, all that renders it possible was prepared, and the edifice was really ready for the 'crowning' it received in 1815 by the 'Additional Act' of that year, the articles of which are a consecration of all the conquests of modern liberty, a summary of the experience and practice of the freest peoples. But the empire fell, and it only remained for the great man to compose his political testament at St. Helena. "Rhetoricians and interested critics may say if they will that the Emperor was playing a part, that he would not have practised what he said and wrote during his six years of martyrdom. It is false; but what does it matter after all? Can it be denied that Napoleon wished to show himself thus in the sight of history, and are not his commentaries the expression of his thoughts? Even if Napoleon was not what he wished to appear at St. Helena, ought we the less to consider what he has written as counsels to his descendants? It is there we must look for his ideas and the traditions of his race." The principle of nationality is not only good in itself, but it is the only one which can serve as a basis for peaceful and durable international relations, or ensure any stability for the future; for what force has done, force can undo. Napoleon was distinctly of this opinion, but he acted against his own conviction in the case of Poland, under the fatal influence of the Austrian alliance. Would not the Russian campaign have had a very different issue if he had re-constituted a well-organised Poland before he plunged into the frozen deserts of Moscow? Napoleon was religious in a general and elevated way, but it is not easy to bring his convictions into connection with any special religious formularies. He was born a Catholic, and in his Italian campaigns he treated the religion of his forefathers with tolerance and even with respect. In Egypt he was disposed to use the Mussulman faith as an aid to his designs on India; and when he became Consul, motives of domestic policy led him to make an arrangement with the Church. "In order that we may duly appreciate the Concordat, let us place ourselves in 1802, and recollect that, besides general and permanent stipulations, there were two transitory facts of the highest importance which it was important to have recognised by the Court of Rome. These were the sale of Church property, and the departure from the Church of priests who had broken their vows. It seems to me that, in judging of the Concordat in our day, people too readily forget the success which Napoleon achieved on those two points, not for France and himself, who could have done without it, but for the Court of Rome, which he forced to hearken to the language of reason. And when we now see the greatest States unable to obtain, even in the interest of religion, the slightest concessions, not on questions of dogma, but on political questions, we must own that the First Consul was very strong and very adroit. If there hang some doubt over Napoleon's religious opinions, which he has nowhere precisely defined—if we may believe that his preferences for this or that religion were subject to

change—one point on which it is impossible to entertain the least doubt is the necessity of suppressing the temporal power of the Pope. On this point there are proofs in abundance—letters, speeches, declarations, facts." On the 17th of May, 1809, he ordered his Minister for Foreign Affairs to present to him a report preliminary to a decree for depriving the Pope of Rome. (Here having read some passages from the minute of that document which the Emperor drew up with his own hand, the Prince continued thus:—"Has time sufficiently justified Napoleon's anticipations? Do you not perceive, from the conflicts provoked by the temporal power of the Pope, that it is now incumbent on all the partisans of liberty and of the spirit of modern times to carry that last fortress of the Middle Ages. Rome, in the hands of the Pope, is the focus of reaction against France, against Italy, against our social system. Singular Catholics those who will have it that the destiny of religion is dependent upon a temporal power maintained by force at Rome. I know no opinion more dangerous, more offensive, more humiliating for humanity. If it were true that religion could rest only on force, great sorrow should there be in the souls, not only of Catholics, but of all sincerely religious men." "His meditations in the Island of Elba had made a new man of Napoleon. He had abandoned, as he himself says in the preamble of the Additional Act, his ideas of universal domination; it was upon France and the amelioration of her domestic institutions that the resources of his genius were directed; but the clue must be sought for within the brief space of the Hundred Days, amidst the preparations for a last conflict. To help us here we have what he did during the truly constitutional empire, and what he said at St. Helena. Let us not give way to that spirit of disparagement which would make of the great man a stage-player of liberty who concedes through weakness and constraining circumstances. No. All Napoleon's past life protests against this calumny. He never did but what he desired to do, and he knew how to do it completely. How is it possible not to believe that Napoleon had recognised the truth that liberty alone exalts the minds of men, and that despotism always debases them? Had he not before him the example of 1814? His Government better than any other could have supported liberty, because liberty would have secured its strength. Its roots were deep enough to resist what would overthrow other dynasties. France has never been ungrateful towards her hero; she proclaimed him, and the rights of the Napoleons have always had their source in the votes of the French people; no other name has been hailed for fifty years when the people were called upon unanimously to choose a chief. Those are our title-deeds, and I own it with legitimate pride. The great shadow of Napoleon hovers over France; it protects his successors. The organisation of democracy is the problem of the future; on all sides aristocracies are falling—the good ones as well as the bad ones—in Poland as in the United States. It is reserved to France, to the great nation, to resolve that necessity of the future, because she is always the initiative nation on account of her past acts, as well as of her genius. Have I allowed myself to be carried too far by my deep emotion? Could it be otherwise, speaking of Napoleon and of his brothers in this spot, under such circumstances? For many years my mind has been tormented by those false interpretations of Napoleon which some draw, who can only see in him the agent of a reaction of frightened interests, of petty passions to be satisfied—while he is the initiator of all grand ideas and of progress. That is his true tradition. Corsicans! we must understand each other. We entertain the same hope, the same faith in the triumph of those inseparable principles—the nationalities, the greatness of our country, liberty! My task is done if, like me, you are convinced that the mission of Napoleon was this—to make the dictatorship the means of achieving emancipation."

JACK AT HOME.

FROM the long confinement and dull monotony on shipboard the sailor comes to a sense of temporary freedom, and these are the influences that await him the moment his foot touches the shore. With a boy's recklessness, a man's passions, and the excitement of a little money with unbounded opportunities for spending it, he is waited for by the tout, the crimp, and all the wretches, male and female, who regard him as their prey, and never leave him from the time when they watch him step, wondering, on to the quay till that desperate minute when he flings his last handful of small change across the tavern counter and roars for its worth in drink, since "money is no use at sea." Day and night the harpies and the furies are at his elbow, dogging his steps lest he should stray beyond the purlieus of maritime London; wheedling, coaxing, bullying, plying him with drugged drink, and leaving him no time to resist, except by furious gusts of passion, which result in his falling into other hands still ready to drag him downwards.

Those who think this an exaggerated statement of the frequent condition of Jack at home may follow him—with the burden of that sad song booming in their ears—through all the neighbourhood where his "friends" lie in wait to receive him; to the dirty tap-rooms of waterside taverns, where he sits and drinks at noontide, with the summer bluebottles sticking in the rings made by pots and glasses on the dirty table; to the frowzy, low-browed shops of secondhand outfitters, where he can cash advance-notes and buy shoddy pea-coats or tin pots made not to stand the fire; to the hot, stifling rooms where, amidst flaring gas and in the reek of strong drinks, he sits, bemused and spiritless, gazing with meaningless eyes at the brazen women who dance before him or wake him to consciousness with rough oaths and shrill laughter; all along that great highway of Ratcliff, where the dull delights of the ball-room at "Paddy's Goose" alternate sometimes with a fierce fight in which knives are drawn or a slung shot makes a startling police case for to-morrow's paper; to the very minor theatres, where he sits stolidly drunk or moves impatiently in and out; to the dens of Bluegate-fields or Tiger Bay, whither he is at last dragged or driven, to be turned out next morning penniless and half naked into the streets; to any or all of these places they might go who want convincing that Jack can safely be left to find his way home alone.

And yet when we consider not only what our mercantile marine really is as an adjunct to the defence of the country, but that we never sit down to a meal without being indebted to the sailor who has risked his life to bring us one or other of its luxuries, Jack surely deserves more consideration at our hands. We may well reflect at least that he who has helped so often to make our own homes pleasant might reasonably ask us to keep some place for him which he, too, may call home without profaning the word. Thank Heaven some of us have thought of this; and though we have been rather long about it, there is good reason to hope that we are about to witness a better order of things. There were hopes of this when the first "Sailors' Home" was established, and men were brought to see the advantages of accepting its privileges. There is, perhaps, a much greater hope of the good work going heartily on since Monday of this present week, when the Prince of Wales opened the new wing of that building in Well-street, where the sailor's comforts are cared for none the less that his independence is respected.

I first made the acquaintance of this institution after having seen my friend Jack under all the terrible circumstances before referred to, and, with this knowledge of him to begin with, walked one day into the great entrance-hall in Well-street, where he and his fellows were sitting on the benches by the wall, lolling on their sea-chests and clothes-bags, taking short fore-and-aft walks in company, smoking, talking, growling, and generally enjoying themselves in a quiet sort of way, not without an eye now and then to the smart officer of a mail-steamer who had come in to look out for a brisk hand or two.

As there were at that time above 300 inmates, it will scarcely be surprising that I was curious to see the means of providing for such a hearty family the four meals a day to which they were entitled; and that curiosity was gratified by a visit to the basement, whence there came an odour of savory meats which fully justified my expectations.

With a kitchen sixty feet long, and the responsibility of soup, roast and boiled meats, pies, and vegetables resting upon their shoulders, the active cook and his assistant were, I discovered, quite equal to any occasion whatever, and the scale of some of the appetites which required such provision was afterwards indicated by that cook's notion of "a snack" of lunch, of which he induced me to partake, and which consisted of about half a pint of delicious pea-soup, a couple of meaty potatoes, and three quarters of a pound or so of mutton chop stewed with carrots and onions. From the kitchen two large lifts convey the dishes to the dining-hall, towards which the men are hastening up the wide stone staircase at the sound of a bell. As they go in and take their seats at the tables, I notice that there are foreign as well as English sailors, and amongst the latter several officers. There are men in blue, in white, in colours, with jackets, with guiney shirts, and some not a little dandified in their appearance, but all in a thorough seagoing way.

The attendants, who wear shirts of blue, have already set out the tables with white cloths, knives, forks, tumblers, and plates, and are now busy bringing in the dishes. Such a steam of soup and joints, and, with a short pause for grace, such a rapid dispatch of meat-pies, joints, stews, cabbage, and table ale, I have seldom seen. The waiters, who are also the ward-keepers, attend each at the table appointed to the inmates of his own ward, so that every party has its own special servant. In less than half an hour the meal is over, except in the case of a few stragglers, and I have time to go into the dormitories—long, three-decked corridors, open in the centre and lighted from above, with cabins (each fitted with its bedstead and bedding) running all round; the upper tiers opening from light iron galleries, and each tier provided with proper accommodation for washing, in addition to the hot and cold baths which are always ready at the basement of the building. So much for the institution, which was commenced thirty years ago, and in which nearly 160,000 sailors have been received since its foundation.

To this building a new wing has been added, to accommodate 174 additional men, in a ward so light and cheerful, with its three tiers of cabins and its high-windowed roof, that the architect may well have been complimented on his success when the whole space was decorated with flags and evergreens, and the cabins and balconies were filled with the bright dresses and brighter faces of the ladies who came on Monday to see Jack at home. In the new building, too, the wide, stone passages and great landings are devoted to bagatelle-tables and quiet spaces for reading or lounging in warm weather; while the old recreation-room below has been partially superseded by a fine apartment, where tables and comfortable chairs, and book-cases (the latter with a few well-thumbed books in them), and some good maps, the gift of a lady to the sailors, is to be Jack's library, where he may play at chess or draughts. I wish some of our readers would help to fill the book-shelves, for Jack dearly loves a spell over a moderately lively volume; and there is a "Nicholas Nickleby" there that has a very wholesome look of long use about it. Another addition to the building which I recognised as a proof of the genial spirit which organised the institution is a capital covered skittle-alley, adjoining the large paved yard at the basement. The shipping-office and the bank for the reception of sailors' accounts are long-established connections of the Home, and are under the immediate control of the Board of Trade. But it should also be known that the directors of the Home cash advance-notes at a small rate of interest, although they seriously deprecate the want of prudence which makes such advances necessary.

Breakfast of bread and butter, coffee, boiled beef, and fish; dinner of soup, roast and boiled meats, meat pies, vegetables, frequent fruit puddings, and table ale; tea, with salad and watercresses; supper of bread and cheese and ale. This is the sort of living provided for Jack at home, and for this he pays from 14s. to 17s. 6d. a week, a sum which includes as much washing as he can reasonably require. A navigation school is attached to the building, and boys are boarded at a rate even lower than that just mentioned. The restrictions are only such as would be necessary for the comfort of the inmates of any respectable lodging-house or tavern. It is obvious that this rate of payment can only cover the actual expenses by judicious economy and by providing for a number of persons at one time. The expenses of the building itself and its later addition were met by the funds subscribed for founding the institution, and these have been exceeded by a little more than £3000. It may surely be hoped that the example of the Prince of Wales, who gave on Monday a substantial proof of his goodwill to Jack, will be followed by all those who see a hopeful sign in the fact that during the past year the bank has received £76,781 of the boarders' money, of which £28,578 has been remitted home, £44,809 has been drawn out, and £3391 remains in the savings bank department. T. A.

A ROMAN SCENE.

To those whose acquaintance with the Eternal City has been sufficiently intimate to correct their first romantic notions of what Rome should be, the scene represented in our Illustration will be familiar. Rome, as most travellers have learned by this time, is not a city of noble squares in ruins, dismantled palaces, broken monuments, superb decay, with overthrown columns lying prone at street corners, and crumbling porches leading into great deserted areas full of classical and artistic mementos. There are all sorts of stone and marble chronicles of the past lying in and around the city; but that city itself is an irregular, gloomy, louring collection of dull streets, sometimes running into dreary spaces, where tall black houses look down upon an inclosure of dust and sand. About the English quarter there is more of life and colour; but, for the most part, the outdoor aspect of Roman dwellings is dull enough, and the very river runs a deep coffee colour, instead of sparkling in the sun, its lazy water-wheels seeming to groan and creak, in complaint of labour, just as the human workers employed in excavations or other toil will stop to rest themselves and sigh heavily after every spade of rubbish they lift, and will ultimately sit down to sleep in parties, disposing themselves for a siesta in the very wheelbarrows. The briskest of all the labouring Italians are the drivers of the public vehicles, who are down upon the hesitating visitor with an alacrity not to be outdone even by an Irish cardriver; but even they draw up their carriages across the footway to get under the shade of a high wall, and sleep with one eye at a time as they lounge upon the box or on the steps of the vetturinos.

Much of the laborious draughtwork, both in Rome and the whole country, is done by teams of oxen, however; and the wayfarer may often come upon a really picturesque party of drivers, in high-crowned hats, leather gaiters, gay jackets, and general get-up of brigandage, guiding a long row of these magnificent beasts, used to move stone for building, or such heavy loads as would try the powers of the small, lean Italian horses too severely. In countries where the ox is used as a beast of draught it is necessary that he should have a short and broad hoof, protected by a shoe, for the Roman roads, wonderful in history, are heavy enough at times, and the Roman fields are not altogether destitute of stones. To shoe the ox, then, is one of the most necessary operations of Roman farriery; and in some of those spaces already alluded to, in the poorer quarters of the town, the fierce-eyed, white-teethed drivers of cattle may be seen bringing their beasts to the forge, where the smith consigns them to a machine made of timber, and such as is sometimes used for shoeing vicious horses, since, unless the strong brutes are rendered helpless, they will often resent the farrier's attention by goring him with their long and terrible horns.

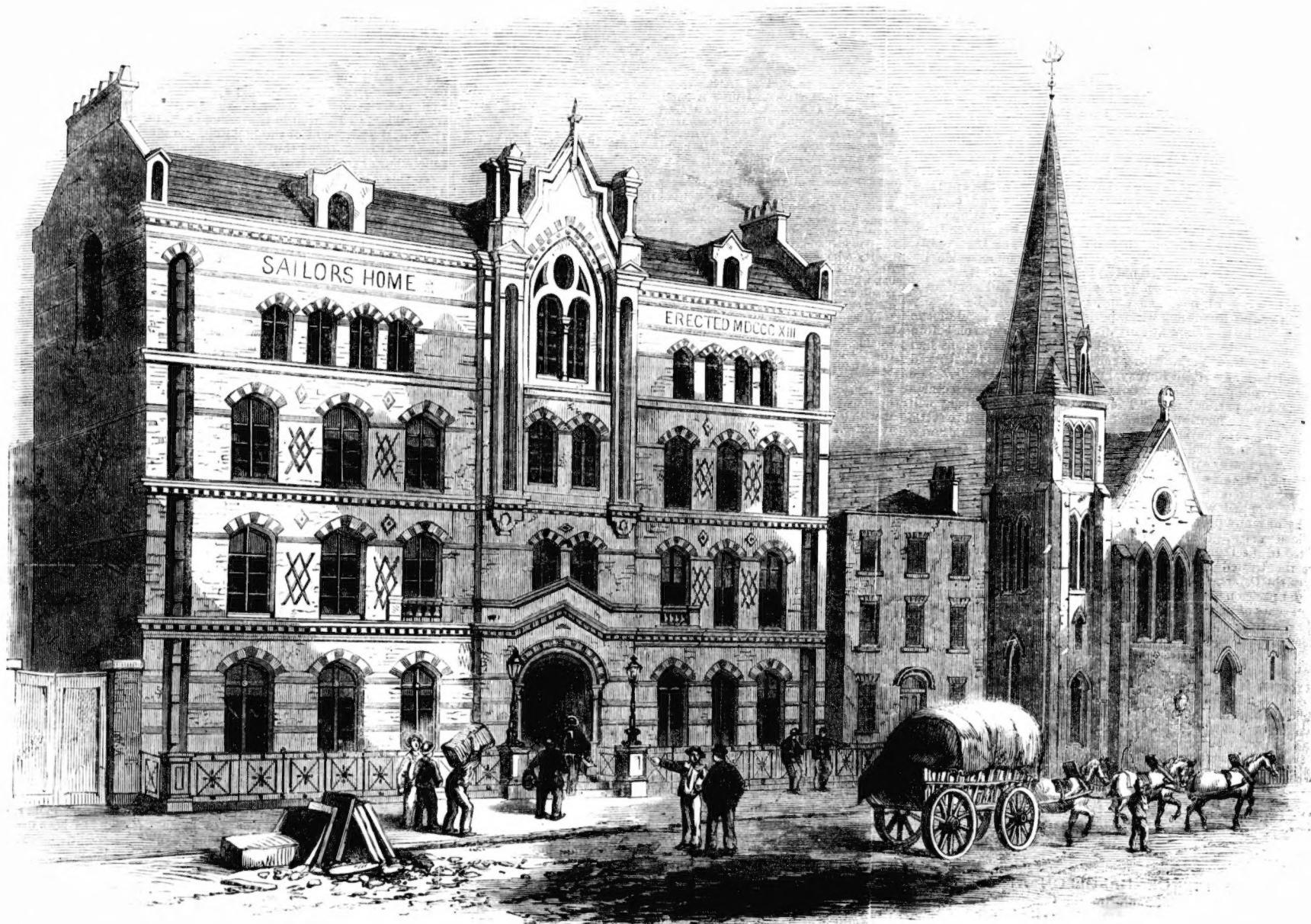
A COMMERCIAL TREATY between Belgium and the Zollverein was signed at Berlin on Tuesday.

A MEETING OF DELEGATES from the different vestries and district boards was held, on Wednesday, in the vestry hall of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, to protest against the proposed grant of £10,000 to Mr. Bazalgette and his assistants. Mr. Churchwarden Garland presided. Resolutions were unanimously carried strongly condemning the proposed grant.

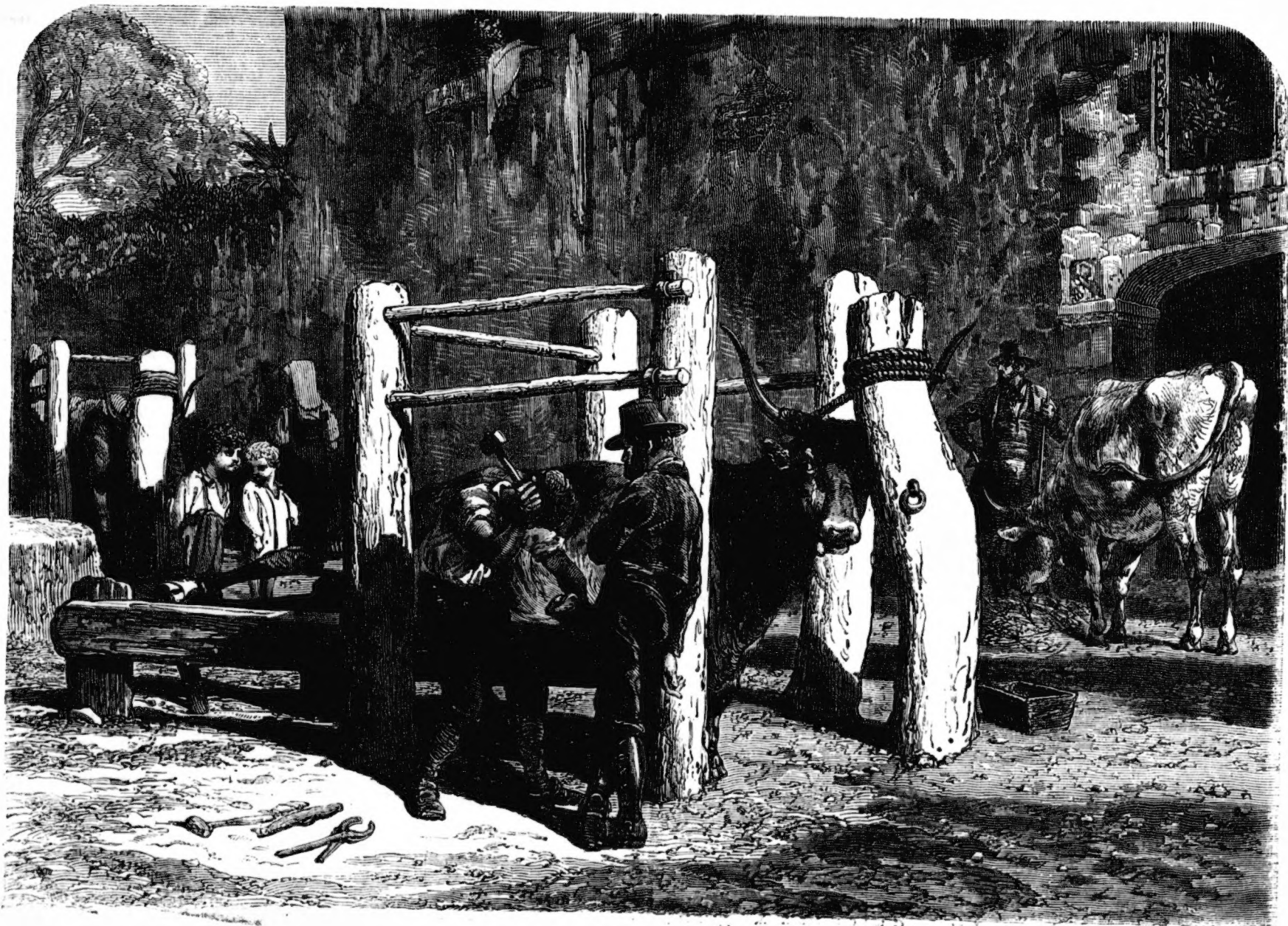
A GENTLEMAN in DUBLIN has invented "a new female costume;" and, as his "only desire is to see our sisters modestly, elegantly, and comfortably clad," he will supply the design gratis to anyone who will apply by letter to C. V. B., designer, at Birney, Collis, and Co.'s, Aston's Quay, Dublin.

THE LATE ADMIRAL FITZROY, F.R.S.—A benevolent lady has placed at the disposal of the National Life-boat Institution the cost (£400) of a new life-boat and transporting-carriage, on condition that the boat is to be named the "Admiral Fitzroy," in memory of the late distinguished meteorologist and "clerk of the weather." The benevolent donor is entirely unknown to the family of Admiral Fitzroy, but his widow expresses her great satisfaction at this mark of respect to the departed.

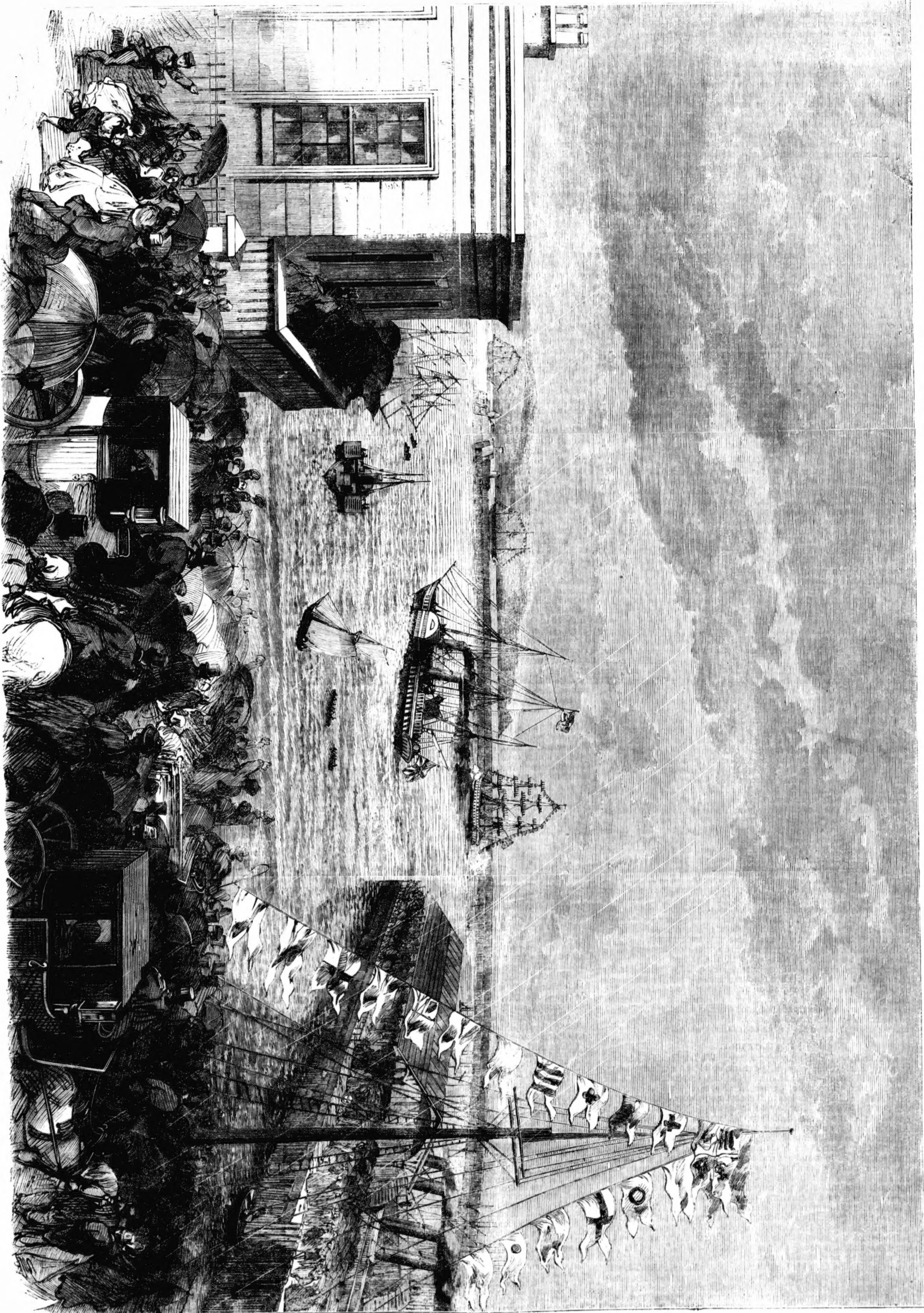
THE NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND.—The annual dinner of the Press Fund took place, on Saturday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern. Mr. Charles Dickens was in the chair, supported by Lord Truro, the Right Hon. Spencer Walpole, M.P.; Mr. Denman, M.P.; Sir John Lubbock, Admiral Burney, and several other distinguished persons. The speech of the chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, was distinguished by more than his usual playful kindness of manner, and contained some interesting reminiscences of his own early connection with newspaper-reporting. The musical arrangements were, as usual, of the first quality. The subscriptions at the close were announced to be £1200.



THE SAILORS' HOME, WELL-STREET, LONDON DOCKS.



SHOEING OXEN AT ROME



DEPARTURE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES FROM KINGSTOWN—SEE PAGE 333.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 260.

CONSERVATISM TURNED REVOLUTIONARY.

ON Thursday in last week's squiredom mustered its forces again; and at five o'clock, as these forces sat ranged in lines four deep, they looked very formidable. And what does squiredom mean by this muster? It had already attacked the Union Chargeability Bill, and failed—utterly failed. Is there, then, to be another fierce assault upon Villiers's lines? and, if there is, how can success be hoped for? There is to be another assault; and Henley, the redoubtable, is to lead on the forlorn hope. In plain English, and without a figure, Henley means to attempt an old Parliamentary manoeuvre. He cannot defeat this obnoxious measure in fair and open fight; but would it not be possible so to damage it that its author must withdraw it? Mr. Henley means to try, and hence the formidable muster of the forces of squiredom on this occasion. Mr. Henley's proposition was startling. It amounted to the entire abolition of the law of settlement; and, as this fine old Tory country gentleman was expounding his revolutionary measure,

There was silence deep as death,
And the boldest held their breath,
For a time.

And well they might; for consider, reader, what this proposition meant. It involved a greater change than any that has been made since the passing of "the new poor law"—greater, indeed, than that celebrated law itself contained. And then remember who it was that proposed this revolutionary measure—a Conservative, a fine old Tory gentleman, one of the olden time, a leading member of that great party organised to resist violent changes, whose motto is "Stare super vias antiquas," and who is supposed to shrink from a great change as a cat shrinks from water. This abolition of the law of settlement may be a wise measure; we think it is, and look upon it as one of those inevitable reforms which loom in the not very distant future; but that Mr. Henley should suddenly rise and propose it must ever be an astonishment. But did he really wish to carry it then and there? We cannot think so. If the House had passed this resolution it would have involved such changes in Mr. Villiers's bill that it must have been withdrawn, and to this end we suspect Mr. Henley made his proposal. Mr. Henley, Mr. Henley, who could have suspected that you, fine old English gentleman as you are, would consent to such a transparent manoeuvre as this? But, lo! Mr. Henley stood not alone, for sturdy Sir William Miles, whom we have always considered the model Conservative squire of the House, and that chip of the old Tory block, Sir Rainald Knightley, spoke in favour of this proposal; and, marvellous to say, 110 members of the House, most of them Conservatives, went into the lobby with Mr. Henley. Verily, truth is indeed stranger than fiction!

MR. VILLIERS.

Reader, have you marked the Government leader in this fight, the Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, President of the Poor-Law Board, and member of the Cabinet? He is worth studying, for he is an exceedingly able man, and, notwithstanding a somewhat weak voice and a rather slovenly delivery, is also one of the most effective debaters in the House. Mr. Villiers is the third son of the late Honourable George Villiers, and brother of the Earl of Clarendon, who, it is said, will be Prime Minister some day. Mr. Villiers is sixty-three years old, or thereabouts. He graduated at Cambridge M.A. in 1827, and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in the same year. From 1832 to 1852 he was one of the examiners of witnesses in the Court of Chancery; Judge-Advocate from 1852 to 1858; and in 1859 was made President of the Poor-Law Board—salary £2000 a year. He was also one of those famous commissioners appointed to inquire into the operation of the poor laws, on whose able reports the new poor law was founded. Mr. Villiers came into Parliament, for Wolverhampton, in 1835. In 1847 he was elected for Wolverhampton and South Lancashire. South Lancashire did honour to itself and to Mr. Villiers by electing him. But, after a good deal of consideration, Mr. Villiers determined not to desert his old friends, who had twice placed him at the head of the poll, and twice (in 1841 and 1847) elected him without a contest. And subsequent events have justified his decision; for since 1847 he has had on no occasion to fight for his seat. It was Mr. Villiers who year after year proposed a resolution condemnatory of the corn laws, and who, undaunted by repeated defeats, persevered till he saw his principles triumphant, and even some of his most decided opponents converted. This, then, is Mr. Villiers's history, and our readers will gather from it that the right honourable gentleman is no amateur statesman, but has been in every possible way trained for the duties which he has to perform. Educated at Cambridge, he learned law at Lincoln's Inn; got to be thoroughly acquainted with the poor law, when he acted as a Commissioner; whilst thirty years' experience in Parliament has given him a thorough knowledge of the House of Commons, its rules, orders, customs, and ways. On the whole, we should decide that there is not an official in the House, nor a private member, who is more thoroughly furnished for his work than is Mr. Villiers; and he is, moreover, a very able man. As an administrator he stands in the first rank; and as a debater, if you will but patiently listen to him, you will find that he has but few equals; you must listen patiently, though, for Mr. Villiers is not an attractive speaker. He is not an orator, and not even eloquent. His manner is ungainly, his voice is weak, and his elocution—to use a comprehensive word—is loose and slovenly. But his matter is always weighty. He understands what he is talking about; he can reason closely; and, all his faults of manner and elocution notwithstanding, if you will but listen attentively, you will learn more of the subject in hand than you will from nine-tenths of the talkers in the House. Though, generally, Mr. Villiers speaks very quietly, trusting to his facts and reasoning to produce their legitimate effect, he can, when roused, hit hard and be very sarcastic in a quiet way. He gave Mr. Henley some severe blows, and hurled more than one sarcasm across the house, which made the good old man wince again. Indeed, as the wounds rankled and festered, Mr. Henley—usually so calm and stolid—got into a high state of feverish irritability.

HENLEY ANGRY.

Yes, for once, Mr. Henley got angry. Whilst Mr. Villiers was speaking Henley was obviously getting up to the explosive point. He fidgeted about—now and then called out, emphatically, "Hear, hear!"—once, if no more, exclaimed "No, no!"—whilst ever and anon his face flushed, and astonishment crept over his features, as one could easily see. Nor is this at all surprising. Mr. Henley is one of the most respected and respectable members of the House. All men, on both sides, have come to look upon the member for Oxfordshire as a solid, highly respectable, and even venerable man; one who, on account of his virtues, experience, knowledge, and abilities seemed to stand out and apart from the rest of the House. On some matters he has always been considered an oracle; on all legislation, for example, touching criminal law in so far as it is administered by magistrates, and Quarter Sessions, or even further; on all poor-law business, roads, &c.; indeed, on all that wide range of business which comes under the notice of an English country gentleman. And rarely did any man ever think of taking liberties with Mr. Henley. He, like all other members, had to battle and argue, and often got contradicted and refuted, but he was always treated courteously and seldom or never ridiculed. It was something new, then, for Mr. Henley to be thus unceremoniously treated—to have his facts denied, his arguments ridiculed, and even the sincerity of his motives impugned. To be sneered at as a repentant sinner, to be held up as a revolutionist, to be charged with discreditably manoeuvring to get rid of a measure by a "fluke" (not that Mr. Villiers used this unparliamentary word), was almost more than flesh and blood could bear. Indeed, Mr. Henley, with patience, could not bear it; and, when Mr. Villiers had finished, up jumped the member for Oxfordshire, boiling with indignation, which he had the utmost difficulty in keeping within Parliamentary bounds, to reply—nay, he scarcely kept his choler within Parliamentary limits—for twice he emphatically, and angrily, and without circumlocution, declared

that something which the President of the Poor-Law Board had said was untrue, for which he had to be somewhat sharply pulled up by Mr. Charles Gilpin, and at this point we really expected that Mr. Speaker would rise to call our venerable old friend to order, and administer due rebuke for his intemperate language. Fortunately, however, Mr. Henley was spared this disgrace; escaped it by promptly recalling—or rather, perhaps, we should say, softening down—the obviously unparliamentary words. After this the right hon. gentleman cooled down, and, considering the difficulties which he had to encounter, delivered a reasonably good reply to the speech of Mr. Villiers. Good old man! It was not a pleasant thing to see him thus unceremoniously handled. But Mr. Henley certainly brought all this upon himself.

COX AND THE COMPOSITORS VICTORIOUS.

There was also, in the course of last week, some sharp sparring upon the Public-house Closing Act Amendment question, the point raised being whether market people and newspaper printers shall be able to get refreshment, which they cannot do now, between the hours of one and four o'clock in the morning. In this fight Mr. Cox was the leader on the one side, and Sir George Grey on the other. The Home Secretary conceded the boon to the market gardeners, but refused it to the printers; whereupon issue was joined—the two champions, with their respective forces, took the field, and Cox was victorious. In two divisions he beat the Government, to the great joy of the deputation of compositors under the gallery, and, no doubt, to all and singular of the printers who ply their calling during the small hours in the neighbourhood of Fleet-street and the Strand. When the fight was over, the deputation assembled in the lobby to exchange congratulations with Mr. Cox, and subsequently adjourned, at half-past two by the chime, to the stall in the corner, to celebrate their triumph in the manner which custom, dating from the time when Caxton first lifted type very near the same spot, prescribes.

A CAPITAL SET-TO.

Passing by other matters which we might allude to if time and space were not limited—the strange vagaries and exhibitions of the eccentric Mr. Whalley, for example—we come to a rencontre between two notable men—to wit, "the greatest orator of the age," as the *Standard* calls Mr. Whiteside, and her Majesty's Attorney-General, Sir Roundell Palmer. It was one o'clock on Saturday morning, and the house was full, though the hour was late. The matter under discussion was the bill of Mr. Monsell to alter the oath which is now sworn by Roman Catholics before they can take their seats in the house; and, of course, Mr. Whiteside was in his place, for was the right hon. gentleman ever absent when the Protestant Church was, or seemed to be, in danger? There had been a good deal of noisy and confused discussion: Monsell anxious to get his bill into Committee, Whiteside and others resolutely opposing the motion upon sundry pleas, one of which was that Mr. Newdegate was ill, which we were sorry to hear. Our sorrow, however, was soon to be relieved, for since then the member for North Warwickshire has again appeared in the house. Another was that, if the obnoxious oath taken by Roman Catholics is to be purged of its offensive matter, it will be necessary to purge also the oath taken by Protestants, which is equally offensive. This plea, though, was not advanced by Mr. Whiteside; he, on the contrary, when he heard it, jumped to his feet, and, in eloquent phrase, denounced the proposition to tamper with the Protestant oath. The doctrine that there could be no foreign or spiritual jurisdiction in England, which doctrine is set forth in the Protestant oath, is one of the essential doctrines and an invaluable bulwark of the Constitution; and, though he might be compelled to assent to the elimination of this doctrine from the Catholic oath, he would never consent to give up his privilege as a Protestant of maintaining this grand and essential doctrine in the Protestant oath. This was the tenor of Mr. Whiteside's declaration. If we cannot make the Catholics deny the doctrine of foreign spiritual jurisdiction, we will still maintain our own right and privilege to do it. Loud cheers from the Conservatives greeted this fervid declaration, and for a time "the greatest orator of the age" was jubilant: he felt that he had touched the right chord, and for a time he really seemed to be master of the situation.

THE TABLES TURNED.

But, alas! his triumph was but very short lived. Indeed, if he happened, whilst he was speaking, to catch a glimpse of Sir Roundell Palmer as he sat on the other side of the table and marked the twinkle of his eyes and the humorous smile which was playing about his mouth, Whiteside must have had his misgivings and felt that somehow, though, perhaps, he could hardly imagine how, he would speedily be robbed of his laurels; for, as the wagging of a lion's tail indicates mischief, so, when you see the Attorney-General's eyes sparkle and that quiet smile lighting up his features, you may be sure that he has got an idea working in his head that will infallibly turn the tables, checkmate his opponent, and win the game. When Whiteside sat down, the Attorney-General rose, sprang up, we might say, and thus pounced down upon his learned friend:—"The right honourable gentleman says that, if the House should alter the Roman Catholic oath, he will never consent to the removal of that great bulwark of the Constitution, the Protestant oath of abjuration. The right honourable gentleman will have then to show to the House why Protestants, who do not believe in foreign and spiritual jurisdiction, should be called upon to swear that they renounce it, when the House has already decreed that it will not require an oath of abjuration of this pernicious doctrine from those who are supposed to believe in it. Meanwhile," said the right honourable gentleman, "let the House do justice to the Roman Catholic members, and then consider whether it can part with that invaluable bulwark of the Constitution—the Protestant oath of abjuration." Roars of laughter and cheers followed this ingenious, and clever, and, we may say, perfectly logical retort. But Whiteside, of course, did not laugh: on the contrary, he was desperately angry, and could not help showing his wrath. He threw himself back—his face was flushed, he tried to look scornful and defiant. He leaped up to explain when the Attorney-General sat down, but got nothing by this move but a repetition of the blow.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

There was no business of general public interest before the House.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND PRESIDENT DAVIS.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH asked the Premier whether his attention had been drawn to the proclamation of the President of the United States offering 100,000 dollars for the arrest of Mr. Jefferson Davis, and if Ministers were prepared to make any representations to the Government of the United States in reference to the treatment of the Southern leaders.

Lord PALMERSTON said the only answer he could give to the question was, that her Majesty's Government had no intention of attempting any interference in the internal affairs of America.

ATTORNEYS', &c., CERTIFICATE DUTY.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. DENMAN drew attention to the unjust and oppressive character of the annual duty upon attorneys', solicitors', and proctors' certificates, and moved a resolution to the effect that it ought to be abolished.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER objected to all attempts to pledge the future by an abstract resolution, and contended that there was nothing in the circumstances of the present case to justify a departure from that course, and said that the surplus in the hands of the Treasury would not admit of the proposed remission of taxation. He did not view these exceptional imposts with favour; but there was no more reason why the large, wealthy, and powerful class of attorneys should be thus relieved than auctioneers, pawnbrokers, and hawkers.

Upon a division, the motion was carried against the Government by 146 to 143.

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS OF WARRANT OFFICERS IN THE NAVY.

It having been agreed that the House should go into Committee of Supply, on the question that the Speaker leave the chair,

Sir J. D. HAY called attention to the petitions of the widows of warrant officers of the Navy, and moved that the cruel exceptions which deprived of any pension those who had become widows prior to 1860 was not approved by the House.

The motion was supported by Sir J. Elphinstone and Admiral Walcott and resisted by Lord C. Paget.

On a division, it was negatived by 62 to 42.

MONDAY, MAY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl Granville gave notice that on Friday, June 2, he should move the adjournment for the Whitetide recess until Monday, June 12.

The Metalliferous Mines Bill was withdrawn, after some observations from Lord Kinnaird, Earl Granville, and Lord Vivian.

The Sewage Utilisation Bill was referred to a Select Committee.

The Earl of Derby called attention to the report of Dr. Angus Smith, the inspector appointed under the bill for the regulation of alkali-works, and stated that the Act, since it had been in operation, had worked most successfully. He admitted, however, that that result would not have been attained but for the cordial co-operation of the owners and managers of gas-works. He hoped that the success of the Act would encourage the Government to legislate for the removal of kindred evils in connection with other manufactures.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PATENT OFFICE ACCOUNTS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, replying to the inquiries of Sir C. Douglas, stated that there were a variety of funds which were either moneys belonging to the public, and on their way to the Exchequer in a multitude of miscellaneous forms, or else moneys for the most part on deposit or held in trust for various public bodies; and that with respect to these two descriptions of money he was not aware that there was any sound system provided for their safe custody. Government had the matter under their consideration, but they could not determine upon the steps to be taken regarding it until the committee of public accounts had reported their conclusion. He thought that some form of inquiry, sufficiently complete to ensure a faithful collection of the facts, ought to be instituted, with the view of introducing a better system, and preventing as far as might be the recurrence of cases which in some instances were pure public embezzlements and in others defalcations of trusts.

THE CASE OF COLONEL DAWKINS.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH directed attention to the case of Colonel Dawkins, who, in consequence of circumstances reported upon by a court of inquiry, had been ordered by the Commander-in-Chief to sell his commission as Major in the Guards or retire on half pay this day, his alleged offence being that he refused to shake hands with his superior officer, Lord Roberts. To set himself in order, he would move the adjournment of the House.

Colonel NORTH seconded the motion, believing, although the House of Commons was not exactly the place to discuss the discipline of the Army, that Colonel Dawkins had been harshly treated.

The MARQUESS of HARTINGTON defended the War Department and the Commander-in-Chief. Matters, he said, that had to be investigated by courts of inquiry were solely those which involved considerations of discipline; and under these circumstances Lord Grey did not think it desirable to lay the papers relating to the case before the House.

Mr. MALINS remarked that Colonel Dawkins would this day, at one o'clock, have to send in his decision whether he would sell out his majority in the Guards, or be put on half pay. He had been kept under arrest for eleven days, simply because he had refused, or was supposed to have refused, to shake hands with his superior officer. In his opinion an extension of time ought to be given to Colonel Dawkins.

Lord PALMERSTON protested against the unfair, irregular, and inconsistent course pursued by hon. members in admitting that the House of Commons was not a proper court of appeal, yet making an appeal to it upon ex parte statements, without having given notice to the military authorities and affording them an opportunity for defending their acts.

Mr. WALPOLE suggested that the Government should undertake to recommend the Horse Guards to institute a further inquiry into the matter.

After some further discussion, the House divided, when the motion for adjournment was negatived by 172 votes to 112.

ROMAN CATHOLIC OATHS BILL.

At the instance of Mr. Disraeli, Lord PALMERSTON consented to resume the adjourned debate on the Roman Catholic Oath Bill at a morning sitting this day week.

UNION CHARGEABILITY BILL.

On the motion for the consideration of the Union Chargeability Bill as amended, a long discussion ensued on a motion by Mr. KNIGHT that several items now paid out of the poor rates should be paid out of the general taxation of the country.

Mr. PACE seconded the resolution, and vindicated the landowners from charges of pulling down labourers' cottages.

A long discussion ensued, in the course of which Mr. Knight's resolution was supported by the ordinary opponents of the bill.

Mr. VILLIERS declared that the obvious intention of the motion was to defeat the bill. He described Mr. Knight's proposition as being of the wildest kind, and altogether irrelevant to anything in the bill.

After a few words from Mr. BROMLEY and Mr. HUBBARD,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the proposition of Mr. Knight dealt with £1,800,000 of charges in England alone. If it were adopted for England it must also be adopted for Scotland and Ireland, and the charge would be raised to £2,500,000. This meant, if anything, that the income tax was to be reimposed, and it cut at the root of self-government. He urged the House not to agree to any such abstract resolution.

The amendment was negatived, some amendments in the bill were agreed to, and the report was received.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.—EPPING FOREST.

The House then went into Committee on the Civil Service Estimates.

On the vote for the expenses of the Woods and Forests' Department a discussion arose in reference to the neglect of the department to enforce the rights of the Crown in Epping and Hainault forests. Mr. COX moved that progress be reported.

Mr. PEEL defended the department, and contended that it would not be right for it to enter upon a costly litigation.

Eventually the motion to report progress was agreed to.

TUESDAY, MAY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Chelmsford moved for papers in connection with the British prisoner in Abyssinia. British subjects had been confined for eighteen months in Abyssinia and cruelly treated, and our Government had taken no adequate steps to procure their release.

Earl Russell would not say that the Foreign Office had been absolutely faultless in the matter, but the publication of the papers would only have the effect of aggravating the position of the prisoners and prolonging the period of their confinement.

A division took place, and, after a long discussion as to the reception of some of the votes taken, the motion for papers was carried by 43 votes to 42.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

On the motion of Sir G. GREY, it was agreed that the House at its rising should adjourn till Thursday, in order to admit of the celebration of her Majesty's birthday on Wednesday.

THE CASE OF COLONEL DAWKINS.

Mr. GRIFFITH asked the Premier whether, considering the probability that, if the division of the previous evening on the case of Colonel Dawkins had been taken on the merits of the case, the majority would have been on the other side, the Government were willing to give further consideration to the decision arrived at by the War Office authorities.

Lord PALMERSTON answered that it would be fatal to and subversive of the discipline of the Army if the Commander-in-Chief were not allowed to use his discretion as to who should or should not be considered fit to command a regiment. That principle being incontrovertible, the Government did not consider it to be their duty to take any step in consequence of the discussion—not the division—of Monday.

THE LEEDS BANKRUPTCY REGISTRARSHIP.

Lord PALMERSTON also stated, in reference to a motion which Mr. Ferrand had put on the notice paper for a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances connected with the registrarship of the Court of Bankruptcy at Leeds, that he was authorised by the Lord Chancellor to say that he courted inquiry into the matter, and that, therefore, the motion for a Committee would not be opposed by the Government. When the motion was formally brought forward it was agreed that the Committee should be appointed by the Committee of Selection.

THE PAPER TRADE.

A motion by Mr. MAGUIRE, that the position in which the British paper trade had been placed by the abolition of the import duty on foreign paper, leaving the foreign export duty on rags in full operation, was one of great hardship to the British manufacturer, and called for prompt legislative interference, with the view of placing the home manufacturer on terms of fair and equitable competition with Continental manufacturers, was negatived on a division by 140 to 95.

THE CHURCH.

Two motions of Mr. WHALLEY, one for a Select Committee to inquire as to the mode in which the service of the Established Church is administered at the Church of St. Paul's, Brighton; and the other, for leave to bring in a bill for better enforcing the law against illegal usages in the Church of England, were negatived. The House was counted out about half-past nine.

THURSDAY, MAY 25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

UNION CHARGEABILITY BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of this bill, Mr. HENLEY defended his conduct in reference to the bill, and again urged the necessity for abolishing the laws permitting removability. Mr. G. BENTINCK objected to the bill on the ground that it was hypocritical. Its promoters professed to benefit the poor. So far from that, he believed the bill would entail upon the poor a large amount of hardship. After a few words from Mr. MITFORD in support of the bill, it was read a third time and passed.

BANK NOTES ISSUE BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of the Bank Notes Issue Bill, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved that the order for the third reading be discharged and that the bill be recommitted for the purpose of inserting in the preamble, after the word "mentioned," the following words:—"And to fix by law a time whereat the present statutory right of issue on the part of bankers obtaining such exemption shall determine, in order that either their issues may become subject to the enactments of the Bank Act of 1844 hereinafter mentioned in respect to lapsed issues of bank-notes, or that Parliament may make further provision concerning them as it shall think fit upon grounds of public policy." Mr. HEGGATE moved, as an amendment, that the order for the third reading be read and discharged, and the bill recommitted for the purpose of making the following amendment in clause 8, line 2, to leave out "shall" and insert "may."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER agreed to the amendment, as it did not alter the powers of the bill. The bill, as amended in the preamble and the 8th clause, was then agreed to.

FIRE BRIGADE (METROPOLIS) BILL.

Mr. T. G. BARING said that a Committee of that House in 1862 inquired into the operations of the fire brigade, and they found that it was not adequate to the wants of the metropolis. The Government therefore communicated with the Metropolitan Board of Works on the subject, and the result was the proposal to place the brigade under the control of that board. To maintain that force they proposed to levy a rate of a halfpenny in the pound sterling on the metropolitan parishes, to tax the fire insurance offices to the extent of £35 for every £1,000,000 insured in the metropolis, and to grant £10,000 annually from the funds of the country. The brigade would then be greatly improved, and engines would be stationed at the Tower, Somerset House, the National Gallery, Chelsea, and other Government offices, thereby affording the Government property additional protection. It was not proposed by the bill to impose fines upon people whose chimneys took fire. Permissive power was given in the bill to place the present fire-escapes under its provision, when their income increased, so as to enable them to do so.

After some conversation, the bill was read a second time.

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SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1865.

LORD WESTBURY AND HIS ASSAILANTS.

TROUBLES, both of a public and domestic character, seem to huddle on Lord Westbury's back in heavy measure just at present, and entitle him to at least the forbearance, if not the sympathy, of all generous minds. No sooner has he got rid of the Edmunds affair, than the Leeds registrarship in bankruptcy crops up against him, and it is even insinuated that other charges of a similar kind are to be brought forward. The accusation against the Lord Chancellor in each case is the same: that he took advantage of certain irregularities on the part of officials to induce them to resign the situations they held in order to make way for nominees of his own. We have already expressed our opinion of Lord Westbury's conduct in the case of Mr. Edmunds, and as a Select Committee of the House of Commons is to investigate the case of the Leeds registrarship—which is rendered all the more painful from the name of a relative being mixed in it who has caused the noble and learned Lord trouble enough in other ways—we shall not now say a word on that subject. Lord Westbury acted indiscreetly in the Edmunds case, and was censured for it. If he be proved to have done wrong in the Leeds case, let him also be censured. But let not a public man be hounded to disgrace for merely party purposes; and it seems to us that a great deal of party animus is mixed up in the attacks to which the Lord Chancellor is being subjected.

We have already, in these columns, commented upon the system of tactics to which the opponents of the Government have of late resorted. The Conservatives have not dared to make any direct assault on Lord Palmerston: he is too well able to defend himself, and is too strong in popular support, for a personal attack to be attempted. Mr. Gladstone, in the early days of the present Administration, was the first against whom the shafts of Conservative yeomen were launched; but, as that right hon. gentleman proved himself an ugly customer, and has been so successful in his financial policy, he has long been comparatively free from attack. Earl Russell was next singled out for assault; but here, too, the effort failed—whether in consequence of the goodness of the noble Lord's position or the generous backing of others, we care not now to consider. Failing in their efforts to damage leading men in the Government, the Conservatives fell back upon subordinates in the working out of their policy of destroying the Cabinet by attacking its individual members in detail. And here they did meet with some measure of success. They managed to drive Mr. Stansfeld and Mr. Lowe from office; but these right hon. gentlemen were comparatively small game—their

places were promptly supplied, and the Opposition took very little by their motion. The Lord Chancellor, however, is a bird of a different feather; and, could he be convicted of malpractices in his high office, Lord Palmerston's Cabinet would be seriously damaged indeed, and there might be a chance of the Tories returning to power. That, we suspect, is the secret of the persistent onslaught on Lord Westbury, and of the sudden fit of public virtue and hatred of nepotism and jobbery which has come over the members of her Majesty's Opposition. If the Lord Chancellor has done wrong, let him, we say again, bear the consequences of it; but we cannot help thinking of the cur snapping at the heels of the mastiff when we see Mr. Ferrand leading an attack on Lord Westbury.

MERCHANT SEAMEN AND GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

ENGLISHMEN have long been justly proud of the noble institution on the banks of the Thames at Greenwich which the nation provided as an asylum for the gallant sailors disabled and worn out in its service. Well, Greenwich Hospital, as at present managed, has ceased to answer the purpose for which it was designed. Out-pensions are preferred by our old tars to residence in the hospital; the berths are half empty already, and a plan lately drawn up by Government will have the effect of leaving only about 700 persons in the building, where there is accommodation, we believe, for upwards of 3000. The question has consequently arisen as to what is to be done with the empty space; and a claim has been advanced on behalf of the merchant service for at least a portion of the accommodation thus rendered useless. This claim seems to have good reasons to support it. For a long period of years a deduction was made from the wages of merchant seamen for the benefit of Greenwich Hospital, a large portion of the funds of which have been derived from this source; and it does not appear unreasonable that some benefit should be accorded to the subscribers to this fund, now that the buildings are not all required for those for whom they were primarily designed. A new hospital for merchant seamen is about to be built in the immediate vicinity of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich; and it is argued, and plausibly, that this would be a mere waste of money while three fourths at least of the berths in the national institution are empty. It would be premature, perhaps, to pronounce a decided opinion on this subject till it has been further canvassed; but the supporters of the claim of the merchant service for a participation in the benefits of Greenwich Hospital have at least made out a good prima-facie case. How such an arrangement might affect the state of things following on naval warfare, when, of course, a larger number of disabled men from the Royal Navy would have to be provided for than at present, we are not in a position to determine; but this, we think, is the main, if not the only, ground on which the claims of the merchant seamen can be fairly resisted. The matter is certainly deserving of the careful consideration of the Admiralty authorities.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, with the junior members of the Royal family, is now at Balmoral, where her Majesty will remain till the 13th of June, and then return to Windsor. The Queen will remain at Windsor and Osborne six weeks before leaving for Germany.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, on Tuesday afternoon, laid the foundation-stone of a new wing to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

THE ELDEST SON OF THE SHAH OF PERSIA is expected on a visit to St. Petersburg, and from that city will proceed through the other capitals of Europe on a three-months' tour.

THE COUNTESS OF ZETLAND died on Sunday night, at her mansion in Arlington-street, Piccadilly.

SIR HUGH ROSE, late Commander-in-Chief in India, arrived in London on Sunday.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER is preparing land for a public park and recreation-grounds, as a gift to the citizens of Chester. In return for this munificence it is proposed to elect Earl Grosvenor for the city at the approaching election free of cost.

SIR JOHN THWAITES, on taking the chair at the last meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, was warmly congratulated by the member on the honour which had been conferred upon him.

BEFORE GENERAL LEE SURRENDERED TO GENERAL GRANT he had been seventy-two hours without sleep, and with little or no food.

ABD-EL-KADER, it is said, is preparing a translation of "The Life of Caesar" into Arabic.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, 29, Great George-street, Westminster, will be open to the public on Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, from ten to five o'clock.

A NEW PLANET has just been discovered by M. Annibal de Gasparis. It has the appearance of a star of the tenth magnitude.

MOATE PARK, the beautiful Irish seat of Lord Crofton, has been totally destroyed by fire.

SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN, late Finance Minister in India, has returned to England, in consequence, it is believed, of the differences between Sir Charles Wood and himself as to the Indian Budget.

ELIZABETH M'DERMOTT, whose case was so prominently before the public some time ago in connection with the Brompton Oratorians, has been restored to her mother.

THE NEXT CONGRESS of the Archaeological Association will be held at Durham, Aug. 21-6. The Duke of Cleveland is president for the year.

THE IRONWORKERS of NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE, after a fruitless and exhausting struggle of four months' duration, have at length surrendered and agreed to resume work on the masters' terms.

THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES at PEKIN have made complaints to our representative of the rough conduct of Englishmen who visit the "lions" of the city.

THE NAIL-FORGERS at the Lye Waste resolved on Monday at once to commence a strike against the reduction of ten per cent in wages which some of the masters had attempted to enforce on Saturday last.

LEOTARD, the man-bird, as he has been called by the Spaniards, has broken his leg while performing his trapeze feat at Madrid.

UPWARDS of 1100 vessels of all kinds were captured by Federal cruisers in attempting to run the blockade during the war.

A MAN, named Leatherbarrow, hanged himself accidentally, at Linton, Derbyshire, a few days ago, while attempting some rope-tricks after the manner of the Davenport.

HAYMAKING commenced a few days ago in the neighbourhood of Warminster, Wiltshire, about a fortnight before the usual time.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has proposed to Austria that an amnesty be granted to those persons in the duchies who were arrested for having signed a petition to the Emperor Napoleon.

A MAN has been sent to prison at Leeds for attempting to brush his chimney by pushing a dog and cat down it from the top. The dog remained in the chimney four hours.

THERE is every appearance of a fruitful season in the Channel Islands. The export of new potatoes to England from those islands is expected to commence in a few days.

IN 1863 THERE WERE 104 PUBLIC LIBRARIES in the United States, with upwards of 10,000 volumes in each. They contained in the aggregate 2,403,477. It is estimated that there are upwards of 12,000,000 volumes in the whole of the public libraries in the United States.

THE CLERICAL PARTY IN NAPLES is excessively irritated against a conjurer, M. Bosco, jun., who, the other evening, at the San Carlo Theatre, imitated the miracle of St. Januarius. By universal consent Bosco's miracle was declared to be far more marvellous than that annually performed in the church of that saint.

EARL RUSSELL has addressed a despatch to Sir George Grey and the other Secretaries of State informing them that her Majesty's Government has thought proper to withdraw the order of January, 1862, requiring any ship of war or privateer of any belligerent to leave a British port within a certain time, &c.

MR. AINSWIE MURRAY and another Englishman have been captured by brigands between Pastum and Salerno, and a ransom of £8000 is demanded. Mr. Murray is detained, and the other gentleman has been sent to Naples to get the money.

THE MARQUIS OF ABERCORN is appealing in the French courts against a decree, issued on April 20, 1864, conferring on, or confirming in, Alexander Stephen, Duke of Hamilton, the title of Duc de Chateaufort. The Abercorn branch have never allowed the right of their collateral in Scotland to that leaf of the strawberry, and the contest is not of recent date.

MR. DISRAELI'S POLITICAL MANIFESTO.

MR. DISRAELI has issued the following address to his constituents:—

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

Gentlemen,—A dissolution of Parliament being imminent, I beg leave to announce my intention of soliciting at your hands a renewal of that high trust which on six previous occasions you have conferred on me by sending me as one of your representatives to the House of Commons.

Although the state of public affairs is, on the surface, little disturbed, the impending appeal to the country involves consequences as momentous as any recurrence to its sense by the Crown has perhaps hitherto offered.

Six years ago Lord Derby, then Minister, proposed a measure on church rates, which, while it maintained the principle of a national Church, relieved the conscientious scruples of Dissenters from its doctrines or polity. It was defeated by a large majority, on the ground that nothing short of abolition could be satisfactory.

A month afterwards, anxious to free alike the Crown and the Parliament from the embarrassments in which they were placed in reference to the question of the Parliamentary suffrage, he introduced a measure which would have greatly extended it on principles in harmony with the Constitution, which wisely recognises the electoral franchise as a privilege and not as a right. This measure was also defeated by a large majority, on the ground that no extension of the suffrage could be sufficient which did not involve a lowering of the franchise in boroughs.

In this state of affairs Lord Derby advised an appeal to the country, and, not having obtained a majority, resigned office; an Administration being formed pledged to the total abolition of church rates and to a measure of Parliamentary reform which should secure the lowering of the borough franchise.

Since that period the Parliamentary condition may be generally but fairly described as a continued attack on the British Constitution in Church and State; if not always suggested by her Majesty's Ministers, always sanctioned by them, and invariably originated by the party on whose support their existence as a Ministry depends.

The attacks on the Church, commencing with triumphant majorities, have been encountered first with difficulty and defeat, but always with determination and constancy, and, finally, have been signally discomfited. The various schemes to deprive the Church of its constitutional privileges have been withdrawn, and the House of Commons has resolved that church rates shall not be abolished.

The attacks upon the State, never conducted with so much energy, have, nevertheless, been more prolonged; and it was only a few nights ago, when the House of Commons, impatient of protracted mystification, reflected the candour of the community, and declared, by a vast majority, that the franchise in boroughs should not be lowered, and that the principle on which Lord Derby wished to extend it was the just one.

The efforts of the Conservative Opposition during the last six years have, therefore, been neither insignificant nor fruitless. They have defeated the measures to carry which the present Ministry was formed, and in the course of the struggle they have educated the public mind to bring to the final solution a decision more matured and enlightened.

The maintenance of a national Church involves the question whether the principle of religion shall be an element of our political Constitution—whether the State shall be consecrated, or whether, dismissing the sanctions that appeal to the higher feelings of man, our scheme of government should degenerate into a mere system of police. I see nothing in such a result but the corruption of nations and the fall of empires.

On the extension of the electoral franchise depends, in fact, the distribution of power. It appears to me that the primary plan of our ancient Constitution, so rich in various wisdom, indicates the course that we ought to pursue in this matter. It secured our popular rights by entrusting power, not to an indiscriminate multitude, but to the estate, or order, of the Commons; and a wise Government should be careful that the elements of that estate should bear a due relation to the moral and material development of the country. Public opinion may not, perhaps, be yet ripe enough to legislate on this subject, but it is sufficiently interested in the question to ponder over it with advantage. So that, when the time comes for action, we may legislate in the spirit of the English Constitution, which would absorb the best of every class, and not fall into a democracy, which is the tyranny of one class, and that one the least enlightened.

The leaders of the Conservative party, although they will never shrink from the responsibility of their acts, are not obtrusive candidates for office. Place without power may gratify the vain, but can never satisfy a noble ambition. Who may be the Ministers of the Queen are the accidents of history; what will remain on that enduring page is the policy pursued, and its consequences on her realm. That will much depend upon the decision and determination of the constituencies of the United Kingdom in the impending general election. Subject to those changes which the progress of society may demand, and the experience of the nation may sanction, I trust they will resolve on upholding the Constitution in Church and State.

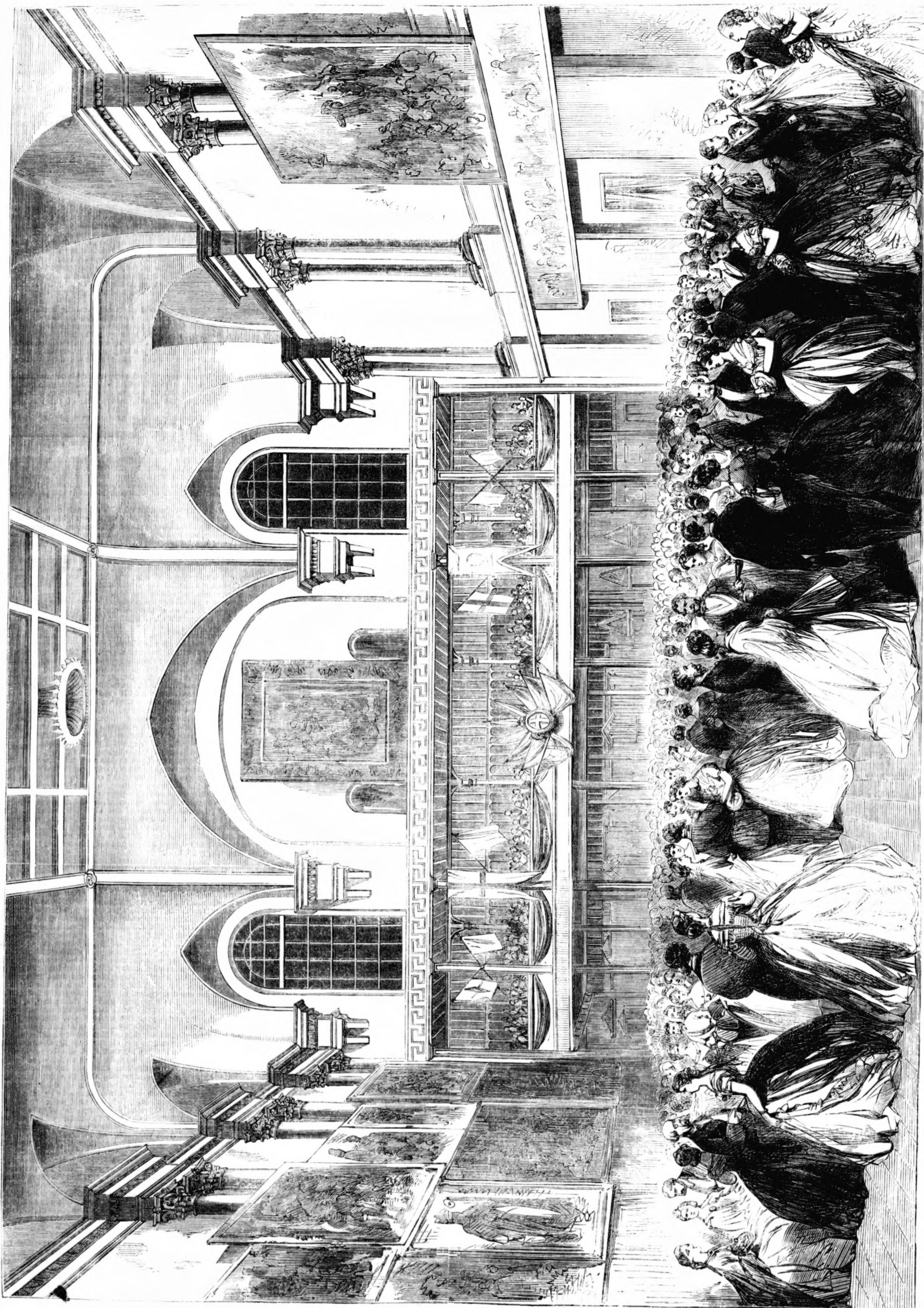
I have the honour to remain, your obliged and faithful servant,

Hughenden Manor, May 20, 1865.

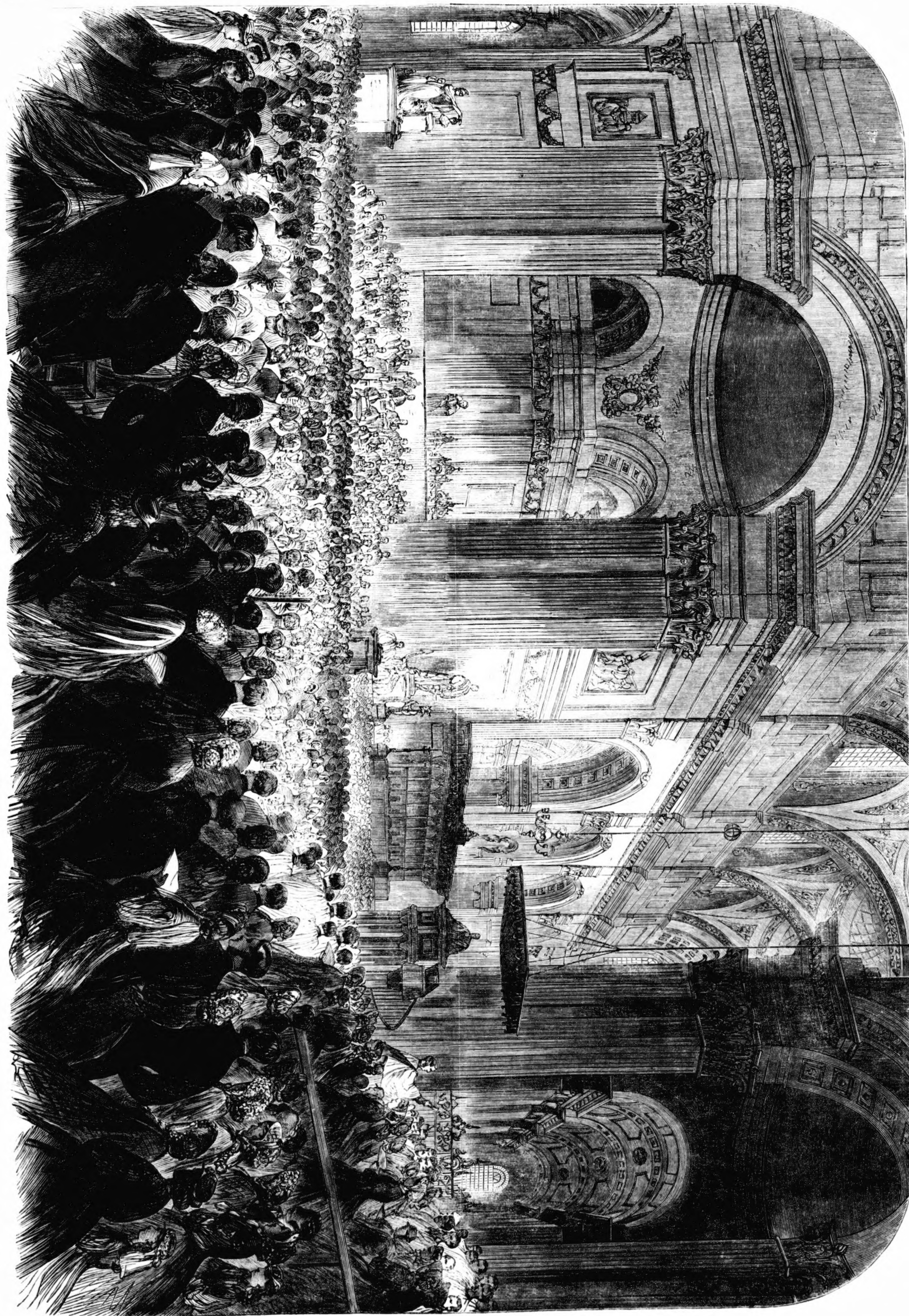
B. DISRAELI.

THE LEEDS BANKRUPTCY COURT PROCEEDINGS.

A RETURN moved for by Mr. Ferrand, "A copy of all official letters, reports, or other papers relating to the resignation of Mr. Wilde, as Registrar of the Bankruptcy Court at Leeds," has been published pursuant to order of the House of Commons. The correspondence commences with a letter addressed on April 6, last year, by Mr. J. F. Miller, by direction of the Lord Chancellor, to Mr. Wilde, and the matter is so far matured by the 16th of the following month as to lead to a demand on Mr. Wilde for explanations relative to the subjoined charges:—"1. That accounts which ought to have been submitted to and allowed by your Commissioner were certified by you as having been submitted to and sanctioned by him, without his having ever seen such accounts; and that thereby large sums had been improperly allowed to the official assignees. 2. That you have been in the habit of taxing the bills of the messengers, without calling for the production of the vouchers for the sums alleged to have been paid by them; and, 3. That you had borrowed money both from the official assignees and messengers of the Court, and thereby destroyed your independence and efficiency." In reply to the first, Mr. Wilde had previously said that he signed the document on the representation of Mr. Carrick, the official assignee of Leeds, who certified to it having been submitted to and approved by Mr. Commissioner Ayrton; to the latter charge he had replied that £131 was borrowed from Mr. Carrick, and £25 from one of the messengers, at a time when he was pressed in pecuniary matters. Investigations into these and other matters were then instituted by the Lord Chancellor, resulting in a note from Mr. Miller to Mr. Wilde, dated from the London Court of Bankruptcy, on May 24, of last year, as follows:—"I am directed by the Lord Chancellor to request that you will, within one week from this day, put Mr. Commissioner Ayrton in possession of the exp. . . nation called for by my letter of the 16th inst., otherwise you will be served with notice to appear and show cause in open court why you should not be dismissed from your office of registrar." Mr. Wilde's statement was drawn up on May 30, and the portions of it by the first and third of the three charges above given are mere amplifications of the excuses already noticed as having been made by Mr. Wilde. With respect to the second charge, he says that he only asked for vouchers in certain cases, following the practice he found to prevail in the court when he received his appointment, and he had never received any intimation that the mode was improper. He had no end to serve in allowing the messengers to take more than the sums to which they were entitled. Other investigations took place, resulting in the discovery of irregularities of a questionable character on the part of the messengers and official assignees. Then comes the result in the form of another letter from Mr. Miller to Mr. Wilde, dated July 26 last:—"It grieves me much to inform you that, unless I hear in course of post that you mean to apply to be allowed to retire, I have instructions from the Lord Chancellor to serve you with notice to appear before him publicly in open court, and show cause why you should not be dismissed from your office of registrar. It is said that your state of health is such that you have no difficulty in obtaining such a medical certificate as would entitle you to retire, under the 33rd section of the Bankruptcy Act, 1861; and, if this be so, I sincerely trust for your own sake that you will see the propriety of relieving the Chancellor from the very disagreeable and, indeed, painful duty which is thrust upon him." The petition for retirement and pension and the necessary certificate were forwarded by Mr. Wilde before the expiration of the month, and by an order of the Lord Chancellor in bankruptcy, dated July 13, 1864, a retiring pension of £666 13s. 4d. per annum, on account of failing sight, was granted to Mr. Wilde for life.



GRAND BALL IN THE EXHIBITION BUILDING, DUBLIN.—SEE PAGE 333.



FESTIVAL OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

FESTIVAL OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY.

THE 211th anniversary of this benevolent corporation was celebrated on the 17th instant under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, and was rendered more than commonly memorable by the attendance of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in the capacity of one of the stewards of the festival. Established in 1655 by a small body of men who were without exception sons of Church ministers—whence the name of the corporation—this society is devoted to the good works, first, of assisting with pecuniary help poor clergymen disabled by sickness or charged with large families; secondly, of granting pensions to clergymen's widows or aged maiden daughters; and, thirdly, of contributing to the education and establishment in life of clergymen's children. Necessarily, the two last-mentioned of its objects are those to which the funds are mainly appropriated. There are at present 712 ladies in the receipt of incomes from this society, which it is greatly desired to increase, while £19,000 have been altogether distributed in various ways during last year among 1250 recipients. Still, the amount of distress prevailing among the bereaved families of men, the smallness of whose life incomes puts it beyond their power to make provision for those they have left behind, so far exceeds the means of the corporation, that the governors earnestly solicit contributions to enable them to render more frequent and permanent help.

The anniversary was celebrated, according to custom, by a full choral service, followed by a sermon, which was this year preached by the Very Rev. Harvey Goodwin, D.D., Dean of Ely. Notwithstanding that admission was strictly limited to those holding tickets, the vast area of the cathedral was crowded long before half-past three o'clock, and the scene which was presented to the eyes of those who formed the procession, which entered punctually at that hour, was impressive in a high degree, the rich dresses of the ladies, who made up a great majority of the congregation, blending with kaleidoscopic harmony beneath the May sun which found its way through the windows, while the sombre magnificence of the organ threw into strong relief the pure effect of the body of white surpliced chorists, who were ranged upon an ascending platform beneath its tall shadow. The order of the procession of ecclesiastical and lay dignitaries as it entered the cathedral was similar to that invariably followed upon great public occasions, the City marshals, vergers, and members of choirs coming first, and the highest personages making their entrance last. The approach of the Prince of Wales was signalled by the performance of "God Save the Queen" upon the organ, the last note of that anthem dying away as his Royal Highness took his place on the raised dais prepared for him opposite to the marble pulpit, and where he sat in a crimson velvet chair, slightly elevated above the surrounding seats, supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, the Lord Mayor, and other individuals of clerical and civic eminence. The musical portions of the service, which were sung by a choir 250 strong, composed of the choirs of her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and other bodies of church singers, under the conduct of Dr. Elvey, were exceedingly interesting and well performed, the special feature of the musical arrangements being an anthem composed for the occasion by Mr. G. Goss to words by Dr. Milman, Dean of St. Paul's, which was very carefully and well sung. The sermon, preached by the Dean of Ely, was founded upon the first verse of the last chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, "I commend unto you Phœbe, our sister, which is a servant of the Church." Upon this, the first injunction from a chapter filled with evidences of the Apostle Paul's thoughtful care for individuals connected with the early Christian Church, the reverend Dean based an eloquent appeal on behalf of the charity which, in the same spirit, seeks to provide for servants of the same Church in these later days, giving peculiar point to his exhortations by a quotation from the lines by Dr. Milman, which had been so recently sung, and which, altering the last stanza but one, were as follow:—

Widow by the low grave stone,
Infant with its feeble moan:
Guideless youth, and dowdless maid,
Under Penury's cold shade—
For the long and weary strife
With the cares, and woes, and sins of life:—
These, Christian brothers, to your bosoms take
In Jesus' name, for Jesus' sake.

When the concluding hymn had been sung, a blessing was impressively pronounced by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the festival was at an end.

A banquet took place in the evening, as usual, in Merchant Taylors' Hall, the Lord Mayor presiding and the Prince of Wales officiating as one of the stewards. In the course of the evening the secretary announced that the collection at the Cathedral amounted to £312, and that £1489 had been collected at the dinner. The name of the Prince of Wales appeared as a subscriber of 100 guineas, and forty-four other stewards contribute £1350. The whole income of the society for the year from voluntary contributions was stated to be £4689, which was entirely independent of the income from landed estates and funded property.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE *London Gazette* was in request at the Clubs on Tuesday night; but the gazetting of Colonel Dawkins's retirement on half pay was not there. Indeed, it is now confidently expected that the War Office authorities will have to reconsider their decision in this matter; perhaps they will voluntarily grant Colonel Dawkins a court-martial. This would be the best thing to do, and it should be done promptly; for on Friday, if it be not done before, Mr. Griffith will move an address to her Majesty, praying her to order the Commander-in-Chief to take this step; and I suspect that this motion will be carried. Mr. Griffith's motion for an adjournment on Monday would certainly have been carried if all the members who sided with Colonel Dawkins had voted for it. This they did not do. Many of them were puzzled and perplexed. "Adjourn the House?" they said, "Why, what good will the adjournment of the House do? That will pledge the House to nothing, and will have no effect upon the question. All we shall gain by that will be the loss of a night." And so many walked out, whilst others, who were decidedly in favour of an inquiry, voted for the Government. These gentlemen, though, here let me say, were all wrong. Mr. Darby Griffith, in moving an adjournment of the House, and his friends around him in pressing on a division, were really acting in accordance with strict constitutional custom. "Here is a grievous wrong done; we will do no business until this wrong is remedied." This was the meaning of this motion, and if the motion had been carried it must have been accepted as the opinion of the House that the wrong ought to be remedied, and as a severe censure upon the Government, and the War Office authorities especially. Mr. Darby Griffith has, in his Parliamentary career, done many unwise things, and made many unwise speeches; but by his brave conduct in this matter he has condoned them all. It is ridiculous to say that the Parliament, in entertaining this case, went beyond its powers. The fact is that it would be very difficult to say what is beyond the power of Parliament; and clearly all the departments of the State are under its control. It is a high court of appeal, and, as Coke says, "its power is so transcendent and absolute that it cannot be confined, either for causes or persons, within bounds."

Lord Rokeby, who put Colonel Dawkins under arrest for eleven days, because the Colonel refused to shake hands with his Lordship, is an old man and an old soldier. He is sixty-seven years old, and entered the Army in 1814. He served at Quatre Bras and at Waterloo, and commanded a division in the Crimea. His Lordship, it is said, has made a double mistake. By the Articles of War, no one can be held in arrest more than eight days without a trial by court-martial; and refusing to shake hands with a superior officer is not a military offence. By-the-way, why did the Colonel refuse to shake hands with the Lord? What was the offence which the noble Lord had committed, that his proffered hand should be

rejected? It should be something grave to provoke such discourtesy. This incident reminds one of old Douglas's speech:

My castles are my King's alone,
From turret to foundation-stone;
The hand of Douglas is his own.

One can almost fancy the gallant Colonel spouting this, as he stiffened himself up, dropped his hand, and gave instead a cold, formal military salute. Of Colonel Dawkins's history I know nothing, but I have often seen him. He is, I should say, about thirty-five years of age, or it may be forty, and a strong, well-built, military-looking man. His friends speak well of him, and affirm that he is an honourable, gallant soldier and a good officer, all which may be true; but I suspect, from his looks, that there is a good deal of irrepressible fire in him, which would be likely to explode now and then and get him into scrapes. But enough of this. It is an unpleasant quarrel this between the Lord and the Colonel; but I suspect that the clever old Premier will, somehow, get it made up.

"The Emperor of the French," said a well-informed gentleman, one who is always posted up in foreign politics, "has got into this Mexican difficulty simply through an error in judgment. He never had a strong sympathy with the Southern Confederates, but he had a fixed, inexpugnable idea that they would be able successfully to resist the Northerners, and ultimately to establish an independent Confederacy, and, further, that they would be but too glad to ally themselves with a Mexican monarchy, or, perhaps, even unite with Mexico, and thus form a strong kingdom able to hold its own against all comers; and, but for this fixed idea, Louis Napoleon would never have undertaken the Mexican enterprise. He is now sorely puzzled, baffled, and mortified. Sound policy would dictate the withdrawal of his troops. Honour tells him that, having placed Maximilian upon the throne, he is bound to support him at all cost." "Well, but what of the American Government?" said I, "will it formally sanction this emigration?" "No, certainly not; but, on the other hand, neither can it stop it, nor forbid the emigrants to take arms, and thousands and tens of thousands of restless spirits will go, for there are rich lands, and, what is more attractive still, there is gold in plenty there." "It is a curious fix this, then, that Louis Napoleon has got into?" "A very awkward dilemma, indeed, one which will tax all his sagacity. Perhaps something may be done in the way of disgusting Maximilian with his position, and thus compel him to abdicate, and then Louis Napoleon might back out."

Men as they get old generally become sedate and what they at least deem dignified. This, however, does not seem to be the case with Parliaments—at all events, not with our present Parliament. That assembly has now attained to nearly the utmost span of its natural existence, and must soon die of old age—a fate which none of its predecessors, for many years, has attained. And yet this aged Parliament is not sedate, much less dignified. There have been more "rows" in the House of Commons during the present Session than in any two or three since the passing of the Reform Bill. In fact, rows, scandals, and personal altercations seem to be the only things which can bring and keep the members together. The disorderly scenes and unseemly noises that used to disgrace the old, unreformed House of Commons, have been revived to a degree in this Session which has excited much painful surprise. If cock-crowing, donkey-braying, and goose-like sibilations have not been quite so much ordinary performances as they used to be in the olden time, a new species of cry has been introduced—that of calling upon hon. members to sing. This, to be sure, has been applied only to such members as Mr. Whalley, who, no doubt, are bores; but that does not justify the House in forgetting its own dignity. I have known the House now for some years, and I confess I never saw such scenes as have lately occurred. The periods before and after dinner are equally dreaded by quiet members, who are anxious to do their duty and perform the work of the public. There is a certain class of members who are distinguished by wearing faultless trousers, unimpeachable coats, and waistcoats of virgin purity, who seem to think that the whole duty of a member of Parliament is to dine and make merry, and that all who interfere with these occupations, by discussing public affairs at inconvenient hours, ought to be put down by noise and clamour. These gentry are troublesome before dinner, and still more so afterwards, when, with flushed faces and exhilarated spirits, they return from table. Really, this is very disgraceful, and should be taken note of by constituencies. Gentlemen who will obstruct public business should at least do so with some regard to decency; and if they will not, why then they should be "rusticated." The characteristic of the House of Commons to which I have referred has excited a great deal of remark and gossip lately, and is ascribed by cynical persons to the over-free indulgence of youthful members in exciting beverages. A Father Mathew, it is said, is much wanted in the house.

So Epping Forest is being filched from the public, and appropriated to building speculations and other private uses; and this, too, without asking any man's leave! In a few years, if things go on as they are now doing, the picturesque old forest, its shady walks and sequestered nooks, its picnics, its gipsies, its grassy glades, where smoky London artisans disport themselves and merry children gambol of a summer's day, will be things of the past. What is to become of my Lord Mayor's annual deer-hunting, what of Fairlough Fair, what of annual dinners at Snaresbrook, the Bald-faced Stag, and the Roebuck, if all the glorious old forest is to be inclosed and covered with "genteel villa-residences" for East-End nabobs? A plague of nabobs, genteel villa-residences, and railways, if this is what things are to come to; and the only spot where the grimy artisans of London may do a day's "outing" with their families, without being notified that "trespassers will be prosecuted," is to be taken from them! The Crown possesses certain rights over such places as Epping and Hainault Forests, to the extent of the ownership of the herbage and the power to prevent inclosure for private purposes; and a curious illustration of how these rights are guarded by the "circumlocution offices" was afforded in a debate in the House of Commons the other evening on certain items in the Civil Service Estimates. For some years past extensive inclosures for building purposes have been going on in Epping and Hainault Forests; and a resolution was passed by the House last Session that no further sales of Crown rights over these forests should be made. The intention of this resolution, of course, was to prevent further inclosure of land in that neighbourhood. But it appears that the only result has been to sacrifice the Crown's rights altogether, for private persons go on inclosing all the same, and the officials whose duty it is to protect the rights of the Crown, and therefore of the people, have declined to interfere, because, they say, to do so would lead to expensive litigation. Is not that an excellent reason? Why, it was not the mere money value of the Crown's right which was in question, though that is not contemptible, seeing that for the right to inclose 600 acres of these forests £3000 was paid some time ago, and there are still from 1200 to 1400 acres uninclosed. It was to preserve the forests as open spaces to which the inhabitants of London could resort for recreation, as has long been their wont, that the Legislature had in view; and this object is to be sacrificed because red-tapeism thinks it is not worth the expense. A nice way of defending public rights and guarding public interests truly!

I hear that the *Glovesmorn* is really to appear on the 5th of June; but there is as much mystery about it as there has been about the *Owl*—with whispers of exclusive intelligence, especially on sporting matters, such as glowworms are supposed to understand. This is, perhaps, the reason for its not lighting up until after the "Derby;" for the "swells" of the sporting world do not, I believe, regard the Derby Day as of very great importance, except as a public exhibition, and care little about racing prophecies and elaborate "tips" when they can procure authentic telegrams in the season.

Any stranger from the country who had found himself by accident at the dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, at Freemasons' Hall, on Saturday, must have thought it the most unruly assembly in the world; but the fact is that the company had had to listen to so much speechifying in their time that they could only hear with patience those who spoke briefly and to the point. On the words of

the chairman, they, like all the rest of the world, hung with an interest which it is his happy privilege to maintain in all assemblies; but some long-winded orators were drowned in applause. They deserved their fate, too, for the evening was too short to permit the capital musical programme to be completed; and Joachim's violin never left its case.

A grave discussion is now being carried on in contemporary columns upon a club question. The dispute is, whether clubs ought or ought not, in their corporate capacity, to contribute to charities. My own notion of the legal and social aspect of the case is, that the clubs ought not to be dictated to on such a matter. Charity is the duty of individuals; but it ceases to be a virtue if the individual allows himself to be bullied into it. If clubs, as such, are to be charitable, why not theatres, concert-halls, banks, and regiments? Who ever heard of a brewery giving away money, even though its partners may have been known as constantly heading lists of subscriptions? A man pays his money to a club for value to be received, just as he would pay his tradesmen for bread or for boots. The customer or member is either charitable or not: if he be, he will not require that the committee should be his almoners; if he be not, why should he be compelled to give against his will money intended by him for a different object?

THE LOUNGER IN PARIS.

AFTER all, there is no place in which one can lounge so pleasantly as in Paris. Paris, new and old, was built for the lounge. After the agitation, stomachic and cerebral, consequent on the rush of boulevard to the head, of the first two days, one settles down quietly to that state of cigarette and seltzer-water, that mild benevolence and gentle cynicism which are the characteristics of the lounge proper. There are clubs here, too, with native members not positively unclubbable. Paris is hot—hotter than usual; and there are more boulevards than ever. The costumes of the ladies—of some ladies particularly—are remarkable, not to say savage. I went to Chantilly the other day to see the French Derby run for. There was a very genteel audience; I use the word audience advisedly, for it exactly expresses the "tone" of the assembly, some few of the most ardent and "horsiest" members of Le Jockey Club excepted. It was a capital race, and there was a vast amount of good breeding, equine and human, on the course and on the stands.

I have been also to the exhibition of pictures, the Royal Academy of Paris. There are some admirable works exhibited, but no one picture impressed me as did the march of Nero by the dead Christians, or the sick child nursed by the Sisters of Charity, which, you may remember, were so much admired in the Exhibition of 1862. A portrait of the Emperor—I mean of the present Napoleon—by M. Chabunat, attracts great attention. It is an extraordinary resemblance, and not so absolutely unlike a gentleman as most of the authentic portraits. In the art of hiding personal defects the brush is wonderfully superior to the sun.

While on the subject of painting, let me remember that the sale of the gallery of the late Duc de Morny is attracting considerable attention in Paris.

Despite the proverb, one head is very often better than two, even when both the heads in question are heads, and not mere ornamental facial capitals. In proof of which, I may mention a literary squabble which has recently happened in this gay city of fine wit and little trees. M. Emile de Girardin wrote a piece called "Le Suppliee d'une Femme." It was read by the committee of the Comedie Française and accepted by them. "But," said the committee, "the piece requires alteration." "My time is occupied by politics," answered M. de Girardin, "do you find some one to alter it." M. Alexandre Dumas the Younger was appointed to the task, and he re-wrote the piece. It was produced, and was an extraordinary success. On Saturday last I assisted at its representation, and was compelled to occupy the seat usually tenanted by the musical artist who is intrusted with the violoncello, and I only got that by favour. Now, M. de Girardin writes to say that M. Dumas *filis* has spoiled his play. M. Dumas *filis* asserts that he has improved it. M. de Girardin sent £100—half of the sum he received from the *Levy freres* for the publication of "Le Suppliee" &c.; but M. Dumas sent back the sum, with a message that he did not want money, but reparation, and an action at law is spoken of.

Having written the name Dumas, I am reminded that Alexandre the Great—Mousquetaire Alexander, Monte Christo Alexandre, Garibaldi's Alexandre—is about to start a newspaper. It is to be called *Le Mois*.

As I write the thunder is rolling, the lightning playing, and an electrical shower is washing the streets; the sky is dark, and it is quite a tempest.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The revival of "Everybody's Friend" at the OLYMPIC was, I think, rather an ill-considered step. The comedy is a capital comedy, well constructed and wittily written, but the present Olympic company is hardly qualified to do it justice. Mr. Neville, who is a most useful and efficient actor of quiet gentlemanly parts, is altogether abroad when he finds himself in one of those touch-and-go characters so completely identified with Mr. Charles Mathews. Mr. Walcot, the new actor from the United States, was not particularly successful in his interpretation of Mr. Buckstone's part—Major Wellington de Boots. Anything more unlike Mr. Buckstone's rendering of the character it is impossible to imagine; and, so far, Mr. Walcot may be congratulated on an entirely original conception; but the effect of his performance was marred by a spasmodic action and an indistinctness of articulation, which must be in themselves fatal obstacles to the actor's complete success in the higher walks of his profession. He will probably subside into a useful actor of eccentric old men.

Mr. E. T. Smith's operatic speculations at ASTLEY'S are as successful as that enterprising manager could possibly desire. "Guy Mannering," and "The Beggar's Opera" have been placed upon the stage with remarkable care, as far as the vocal and histrionic parts of the entertainment are concerned. Miss Louisa Pyne and Miss Rebecca Isaacs sing the music of Macheath's wives as those two ladies alone could sing it. Mr. W. Harrison looks and acts the part of Macheath in a manner that leaves nothing to be desired, except that he should sing it as well as he looks and acts it. A little more attention might with advantage be devoted to the scenery. The last scene in "The Beggar's Opera"—the exterior of Newgate, I believe—is painted on the back of a highly irregular "set," in which I fancied that I could dimly trace the "profile" outline of the wild steppes of Tartary. That dismal burlesque "Midas," which I hoped never to see or hear again, concludes the entertainment. Miss Cottrell sings the music of Apollo charmingly, and was encored in "Pray Goody."

Mr. Giovanelli, who has exercised a judicious sway over Highbury Barn during the last four or five years, has made an important addition to the theatres of the metropolis. The ALEXANDRA THEATRE, at Highbury, was opened on Saturday last with an original burlesque, "Ernani," by Mr. W. Brough, and a bustling farce, "Worryburry's Whims," by Mr. Ross and Mr. Dominick Murray. The burlesque, which is a close parody on the opera, is written in the neat and facile style for which Mr. Brough is celebrated. The puns are numerous and good—many of them remarkably good. Of the histrionic powers of the company generally it will suffice to say that its members, with one or two exceptions, are new to the London stage, and probably to all others. They will, doubtless, improve in time; at present, with the exception of Miss Rachel Sanger, who played the part of Ernani with much promise, they hardly do justice to Mr. Brough's puns and parodies. The theatre itself is prettily decorated, in light mauve, gold, and crimson. The evening opened with a rhyming address, written by Mr. Hazlewood—a literary feat which he would have done wisely to have left in the hands of Mr. Brough.

Of "Brother Sam" next week.

A NEW JEWISH SYNAGOGUE in Southampton was consecrated on Monday by Dr. Adler, the chief rabbi.

FINE ARTS.

THE NINETEENTH EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.
(CONCLUDING NOTICE.)

IN the North Room, two pictures by Mr. A. Moore are amongst the most striking works. They are painted in a key very different from the general style of English pictures, and suffer somewhat from being surrounded by so many more showy, but really less artistic, canvases. "The Marble Seat" (586) is a fine classical composition—three noble ladies lounging on a marble seat under the trees, languidly watching a young slave who pours wine for them. "Elijah's Sacrifice" (615) is a powerful realisation of the prophet's victory over the priests of Baal. The painting as well as the drawing of the flame which laps up the water in the trench is peculiarly good—the effect of fire seen by daylight being most truthfully given. We welcome in Mr. Moore a rising artist, whose originality is not mere forced eccentricity, and whose honesty consists in something better than a preference for ugliness.

Mr. Millais's "Parable of the Tares" (528) is a very powerful work, and evidences more painstaking and thought than can always be found in his pictures. The hinting of the demoniac nature of the sower, the writhing snakes, the prowling hyena, and the lurid yellow sky showing through a gash in the dark clouds, add each and all to the force of this very remarkable painting. "Esther" (522) is noticeable chiefly for the skill with which the embroidery of the yellow robe is handled. The head is pleasing, but it wants bringing away from the dull blue drapery, which looks too much as if it were painted up to the figure in pairs.

The "Cassandra" (503) of Mr. Sandys might well pass for a picture by some famous old master, such are the depth and lustrous intensity of the painting. With head flung back, with wild eyes and tossing hair, the possessed Princess shrieks out her prophecy, as little heeded as the threatening gleam in the sky behind her. The last of Mr. Hook's pictures this year is "The Seaweed Gatherer" (567)—a woman, assisted by her tiny, odd trot of a child, collecting the ore weed and tangle on the beach. This is as pleasing as any of the works of this excellent artist exhibited this season. Mr. Watson has hardly answered our expectation this year. His "Lady at her Glass" (609), though painted with considerable skill and effect, is a subject hardly worthy of his undoubted powers. Mr. Nicol, too, in his "Deputation" (514) has scarcely equalled the "Old Masters" of last year. But there is some very capital painting in it, and the same quiet humour which has always marked this well-known artist's pictures. Mr. Marks works to better purpose than in his "Beggars," in his representation of "Francis Feeble, the Woman's Tailor" (591), which, besides being better painted than usual, is more humorously and happily conceived than anything we have seen from Mr. Marks's easel since "Toothache in the Middle Ages."

By his "Faithful to the Death" (542) Mr. Poynter takes a place among our rising artists which, we believe, he will be able to maintain. A Roman soldier, stationed at the Herculean gate of Pompeii, having received no order to quit his post, stands—and did stand, for the story is a true one, told by the fine fellow's skeleton discovered during the excavations—still at his post, waiting the inevitable fate which has already overtaken some of the citizens as they were seeking safety in flight. Full in the glare of the burning mountain, with the molten fiery rain falling around him, he never flinches. With his eye fixed—not fearfully, but bravely—on the deadly torrent that must ere long swallow him up alive, he is true to his duty, faithful to the death. A young artist might well have been pardoned if, in trying to render the conflicting emotions in the soldier's face, he had fallen into exaggeration. Mr. Poynter has realised it admirably; the consciousness of danger, the certainty of death, and the stern resolve are all to be read there. The glow suffused throughout the picture gives most thoroughly the reality of the neighbourhood of the burning mountain, and the drawing of the figures in the background is excellent indeed. The subject, in short, is a fine one, and the handling is quite worthy of it.

An exceedingly happy reading of "Hamlet and Ophelia" (603) is supplied by Mr. Orchardson. The shrinking, timid figure of the girl, and the young Prince's melancholy yet dignified appearance, are happily rendered. The painting of the tapestry is admirable, and the arrangement of the picture very clever. Miss Ellen Edwards, whose progress in art we have several times observed with pleasure, exhibits, in "The Last Kiss" (574), a picture which will undoubtedly establish her reputation as a painter. The face of the girl, who is about to bury her dead pet, a dove, under a bush of roses and honeysuckles, is a most charming piece of painting, and the treatment of the rich silk dress is very clever. Miss Edwards has wisely refrained from making the picture too sad; the sorrow in the pretty face does not seem to be inconsolable, and we think we may venture to say that few of the sterner sex can look at it without wishing to have the task of consoling so truly lovely a mourner.

Mr. Herbert gives us a very telling "Sundown in the Desert" (195), in which the brief twilight of the East is well brought before us. His "Eastern Sportsmen" (570) is another clever reminiscence of Oriental travel.

The defence of "Lathom House" (616) is a picture that will raise Mr. G. D. Leslie's reputation. It is boldly drawn and admirably arranged as a composition; and, as it is altogether a more ambitious work than Mr. Leslie has hitherto attempted, he may be congratulated on his success. In spite of its reminding us a little too forcibly of a picture exhibited at the Old Water-Colour Society a couple of years since by Mr. Watson, "The Prisoner" (493), by Mr. Tourneur, is a picture which deserves the good place it occupies—a position which must be encouraging to the artist, who, we believe, has not exhibited in the Academy before. Mr. Harling's "Down the Cliff at Sorrento" (535), though not well placed, should by no means be overlooked. It is carefully painted, with a skill and appreciation of Nature which would seem to promise much for the future. Mr. Bridell's "Little Ellie" (608) is a charming rendering of the small heroine of Mrs. Browning's pleasant "Romance of the Swan's Nest," one of the most delightful of her poems. Mr. F. Hall's "Ferngatherer" (612) is hung at a height which renders it impossible to judge of its merits. A "Fisher Girl" (568), by Mr. Liddendale, is a nice, bright, open-air study, with a cleverly put in background of beach and rock-pool. Mr. O'Connor's "Vestal Virgin" (506) possesses some good points; but he has much to do yet ere he attains the excellence of the master on whom he would seem to model himself—Mr. Leighton.

In this room Mr. Whistler gives us two more of those pleasant but unsatisfactory bits of clever colouring which one has to praise and blame in the same breath. The "Little White Girl" (530) is one of the best of his figure subjects, though it hardly realises the exquisite fancy of Mr. Swinburne's lines, appended to it in the catalogue. The "Scarf" (569) abounds in delicious colour; but both pictures are injured by a rough carelessness of handling which almost offends us as a discourtesy. Mr. Bedford, in his "Morgan le Fay" (620), pays a scrupulous attention to detail which Mr. Whistler might condescend to give us a little more of. Mr. Bedford has succeeded in finishing his accessories without injuring the breadth of general effect. The colouring is rich and the composition not unpleasant, though the figure of the enchantress herself wants dignity.

Mr. J. Fied's "Kinmont Willie" (536) is a remarkably good specimen of his style, showing that he has, to some extent, overcome a tendency to blackness observable in his earlier works. The figures of the soldiers are well drawn and painted. Mr. Fisk's "Ruler's Daughter" (490) is effectually removed beyond reach of criticism by being placed over the door; but it seems a carefully-conceived reading of the sacred story, and, as far as we can see, the work is conscientious. It lacks, however, the vigour and originality of Mr. Fisk's work exhibited last year. Mr. Wyburd's "Church Porch" (494) is a stride beyond former efforts, very satisfactory in colour, and pleasantly arranged. Mr. Morgan's "Snowballing" (610) is capably painted, and contains passages of humour and sly fun which tell well. It is a decided improvement on this artist's

earlier work. "A Study" (556) by Mr. Collinson will well repay attention; though there is not much in the subject, the handling is very meritorious. "Brighton Beach" (617), by Mr. Nibbs, has some very truthfully-rendered sand and water, and should not be overlooked.

Mr. Ribot's "Les Retameurs" (517) is decidedly clever, but is painted in a strange key of colour, which makes it resemble in tone those embrowned canvases which picture-cleaners delight in exhibiting.

Mr. Marcus Stone by no means adds to his reputation by "Old Letters" (619). The painting of the accessories is remarkably clever, but the figure is weak, and is so drawn as to suggest that the melancholy young lady has not a leg to stand on, supposing she meditates taking the writer of the letters into a law court for breach of promise. Mr. Egley's illustration of "The Last Days of Pompeii" (497) has too many of the faults observable in the style of the author of that work—exaggeration and a straining after effects that are not natural. Mr. Archer's "Paritan Sultor" (575) is the least happy of his pictures this year. The figure of the sultor wants roundness and reality, although the other figures are fairly enough painted.

Mr. Heaphy's "Lord of Burleigh" (523) is better than usual, though still there is much room for improvement. Mr. Drummond's "Graham of Claverhouse" (515) is modelled upon Mr. Ward's style, and has not even the good points of that artist. Mr. Hayllar has not been successful in his large picture of "Queen's Elizabeth's Toothache" (527); nor has Mr. Crowe done any better with his "Whitfield Preaching" (559).

Mr. Stanhope's "Beauty and the Beast" (537) has, at all events, very little of the "Beauty" to be seen in it; and Mr. Burton's two magic-lantern-glass figures, with impossible wings, apparently about to retire to rest in a truckle-bed, seem to us very inadequate as a representation of "Angels at the Sepulchre" (549).

Of animal-painting, perhaps the finest specimen in the Academy this year is Mr. Davis's "Strayed Herd" (560); but the picture possesses other merit than that of animal-painting only. The way in which Mr. Davis has transferred actual sunlight to his canvas is purely marvellous. On the duldest day, the first impulse of the visitor on seeing this painting is to look up at the skylight to see where the sun is coming from. The drawing of the cattle evidences a thorough knowledge of their habits as well as their form; and the sky and landscape are treated in the most masterly manner. By this one picture Mr. Davis most triumphantly proves the injustice or incompetence of the hanging committees which in previous years have refused to hang his works.

Mr. Cooper has a picture, in his best style, of cows and sheep "On the Kentish Coast" (496). Mr. Simms's "More Free than Welcome" (532) has a cleverly-painted puppy in it. Mr. Key's "Sardinian Ponies" (557) is by no means equal to his usual work; but then it is a Royal commission, and there is a fatality attending such commands.

In landscape, we have the best picture of Mr. Creswick's that we have seen of late—"Percy Brook" (529)—an exquisite bit of English scenery, admirably painted; a most poetical "Sunset in the Tropics" (565), by M. Mignot, a splendid work; and a very fine sombre picture of "Dannot Castle" (541), by Mr. Oakes.

"Rest for the Weary," by Mr. Anthony, is a fine work, full of suggestion and feeling; and there is a great charm in Mr. Danby's "Another Bride for the Sea" (548). Mr. Inghold's "Public Gardens, Venice" (500) has some very cleverly-painted water; and Mr. C. P. Knight, as usual, gives us real nature and exquisite atmosphere in "On the heights at Exmoor" (545).

Mr. Cooke's "Dutch Beurtman Aground" (595) is painted with his accustomed vigour of sea and sky. Mr. Jutsum's "Stream through the Woods" (592). Mr. J. T. Linnell's "Hill and Dale" (552). Mr. Niemann's "Mill" (622). and Mr. Syer's two landscapes, "Foss Nodin" (491) and "Carden Park" (499), are all deserving a passing mention as good specimens of the styles of these well-known artists. "Rising Mist" (577), by Mr. Johnson, and the "Lychgate" (597), by Mr. Darvall, must also have a word of praise. Mr. Leslie's "Ice Ahead" (581) is telling: for its truth we must appeal to Arctic travellers.

In the South Room there are some meritorious water colours by Mr. J. C. Moore, Miss L. Rayner, Mr. Storks, and Mr. Watson, whose "Juvenile Party about to break up" (610) should be looked for. Mr. Brennan's "Capri Courtyard" (615) is an admirable little work. Mr. Reynolds's "Evening" (683) and Mr. Tucker's "Partners" (700) are also very good.

Among the miniatures, by far the most noticeable is "Margaret, daughter of F. Wyburd, Esq." (558), by Mr. H. C. Heath—a charming little head, possessing merits rarely found in this class of works.

The architectural drawings are of the usual character, and are, no doubt, interesting to the profession. The public will probably regard with most attention the views of the Main Drainage Works, which may be described as the best combination that could be effected of sewage and frontage.

The Octagon Room will repay a visit. There are some clever etchings, among which we may particularise Mr. Haden's "Old Chelsea" (865) and Mr. Palmer's "Evening Pastures" (872). Mr. Edwards also exhibits a couple of clever etchings. If we are to take "Shere" (843), by Mr. Cole, C.B., H., as a sample of what can be taught at South Kensington, we do not augur well for the art-schools there. The sculpture this year is no better than usual. An "Eve" (892) by Mr. Westmacott, "Alastor" (910) by Mr. Durham, "A Fisherman's Daughter" (911) by Mr. Wyon, "Elaine" (914) by Mr. D. Davis, and "Flora" (948) by Mr. Trentanove, are noticeable amid a dreary waste of mediocrities and repetitions. "Clymene" (966), by Mr. W. Davis, is pretty; and Mr. Bell might, with a little trouble, have made a charming figure of his "Cherub with Primroses" (969). A bas-relief of "Cynthia" (1061), by Mr. Gould, is very pleasing, and so are two bas-reliefs by Mr. Miller (927 and 981), but they are not new. Among the portrait-busts the most remarkable are a fine head of "Mr. Potter, first Mayor of Manchester" (939), by Mr. Noble, and an almost classical and Jovian head of "John Watkins, Esq., F.S.A." (933), by Mr. W. Davis.

In closing our notice of this year's Royal Academy, we are glad to be able to say that, after a careful review of all the pictures exhibited, we find the opinion which we expressed in our first notice confirmed—viz., that the very marked improvement in the exhibition this season is due to the earnest and honest work done by our younger artists, who, after flinging off the old despotism of Conventionality by a rebellion—excessive, as all rebellions are—which they called "Pre-Raphaelitism," are rapidly becoming good citizens of that great and glorious "republic of art" which we hope to see established, a republic without an academic aristocracy, but with the highest prizes of the profession within the reach of every careful and conscientious worker-out of the genius or talent wherewith Heaven has gifted him.

A MAN was found hanging to a tree in France the other day, in whose pocket was the following letter:—"To those various people who think it concerns them. You will be astonished to find a suicide aged thirty. It is neither want, idleness, nor love which has driven me to this deed. I am a workman, and gain my living without difficulty. I came to Paris to work, and have had work for some years, so I am neither poor nor idle; but tastes beyond my condition and education prevent my leading the life I wish, and, above all, I am prevented making a suitable marriage."

AN INTERESTING ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY has just been made in a private property on the side of the hill of Fourvières, near Lyons. It is the lower floor of a Roman house, perfectly preserved. In searching one of the walls a recess was found decorated with frescoes on a red ground. It is supposed to have served as a sanctuary for the household gods.

AT TREDEGAR, the other day, a cottage sank into the ground entirely out of sight, leaving the site upon which it had stood an open chasm, filled to within some yards of the road with earth and stones, which had fallen in from the sides. The ground on which the cottage was raised stood over a disused colliery.

THE TRIBUNAL OF CORRECTIONAL POLICE, Paris, has just tried an Englishman named Williams, calling himself a jockey by profession, on charges of obtaining money under false pretences. The tribunal declared the charge fully established, and condemned the accused to six months' imprisonment, with 25f. fine.

M. DE PERSIGNY ON THE ROMAN QUESTION.

A PAMPHLET on the Roman question, from the pen of the Duke de Persigny, in the form of a letter to M. Troplong, President of the Senate, was published in Paris on Saturday last, and has caused considerable excitement in that city. The author commences by affirming the existence in the bosom of the Papal Government of a party organised long since by the enemies of France—a party which dominates all, the Pope, the Cardinal, the religious houses, the Government—which, in its hatred of the principles of civil legislation which exist in France, would unhesitatingly risk against what it calls the revolution the security of twenty Popes; and which, directing all the engines of spiritual power, has no other thought than to make them subservient to the disorganisation of France and to the triumph of her enemies. M. de Persigny proceeds to unveil the views of this party, its menaces, its efforts, its method of judging accomplished facts. He argues against it, all the while showing its tenacious powers of resistance; and, after having set forth his own impressions, he still inclines to hope, and exclaims, "In spite of all, the door of reconciliation may still be open!" But how? M. de Persigny has devised a plan. He would take Rome from Italy; but he means the Romans to remain Italians:—"So that, retaining their status as Roman citizens, they may serve in Italy, enter every civil and military career, travel freely and without the annoyance of either customs or police, like veritable Italians; lastly, he desires that Rome, under the Pontifical Government, may continue a neutral territory, a sacred asylum in the midst of a common country, in which the two sentiments of veneration for the Holy Father and love for Italy may merge in one common aspiration." Such is the plan proposed by the Duke, and he adds that he believes it to be realisable. For, having explained his views to Cardinal Antonelli and other personages of the Church, he did not meet with any serious objection to his proposals "in principle." The subjoined extract gives the Duke's reasons for deeming Rome impossible as the capital of Italy:—"In fact, if the project of making Rome the capital is of a nature to captivate the imagination, it does not equally satisfy the requirements of reason and the interests of policy. And, first, what is there in common between modern Italy and the Rome of the Popes, Emperors, and Consuls? Who in our day would dare, without having conquered the universe, restore the famous phrase *Senatus Populusque Romanus*, tread the stones of the Via Sacra, and ascend to the Capitol? And if these grand things cannot be repeated, how can Rome? Ancient Rome would crush Italy with all the weight of its history. This pretension of modern Italy in the face of Pagan Rome would be puerile, as in the face of the Catholic Church it would be odious. In the midst of that enormous quantity of churches and of religious monuments of every kind and of all magnificence, what would Italy do? Would she turn pious or pagan? No; between these two cities, heathen Rome and Catholic Rome, which now elbow and press upon and hamper each other, there is no place for a political capital; and, now that I have actually seen Rome, my only astonishment is that such a proposition should ever have been seriously made. Besides, higher considerations determine the question: Rome, whether Pagan or Christian, belongs, not to Italy, but to the world. What people, I ask, can declare itself the exclusive heir of ancient Rome? Rome, in overrunning the world to conquer it, mingled its blood with all foreign races, just as the foreigners became merged into Rome when they invaded Italy. We, the Transalpine Gauls, the Iberians, Bretons, or Germans, are as much the children of Rome as are the Cisalpine Gauls, the Etruscans, or the Latins. Like them and equally with them we feel within our veins the pulsations of that generous blood, the most glorious blood in history; as joint heirs with them in the heritage of Rome, we can concede the right of seniority to none. It is just, therefore, that the cradle of our civilisation should belong to no one people, but be the undivided possession of all European nations, the neutral territory in which all may honour the tombs of their common ancestors, and extend to one another the right hand of amity and kindred. As to Catholic Rome, our right is still more clear. The capital of the Christian world, the seat of the spiritual government of universal Catholicity, cannot belong exclusively to any particular State. Organised, constituted, and enriched centuries ago by the piety of the faithful of the entire world, Rome must remain the property, the centre, the common possession of all the Catholic Powers. For the rest, the Italian people, whose political sense has so admirably availed itself of the opportunity to constitute their independence, this intelligent people who have so cleverly effected the amalgamation of their various elements that one would think they had been united for ages, understand the question as well as we do. They know that the pleasure of dating from Rome the acts of the new kingdom would not compensate for the danger of exciting the dissatisfaction of the great Powers and of Catholics throughout the world; and if they are surprised at anything in our opposition to the project of making Rome the capital it is, perhaps, that our opposition has not been more formal and more unqualified."

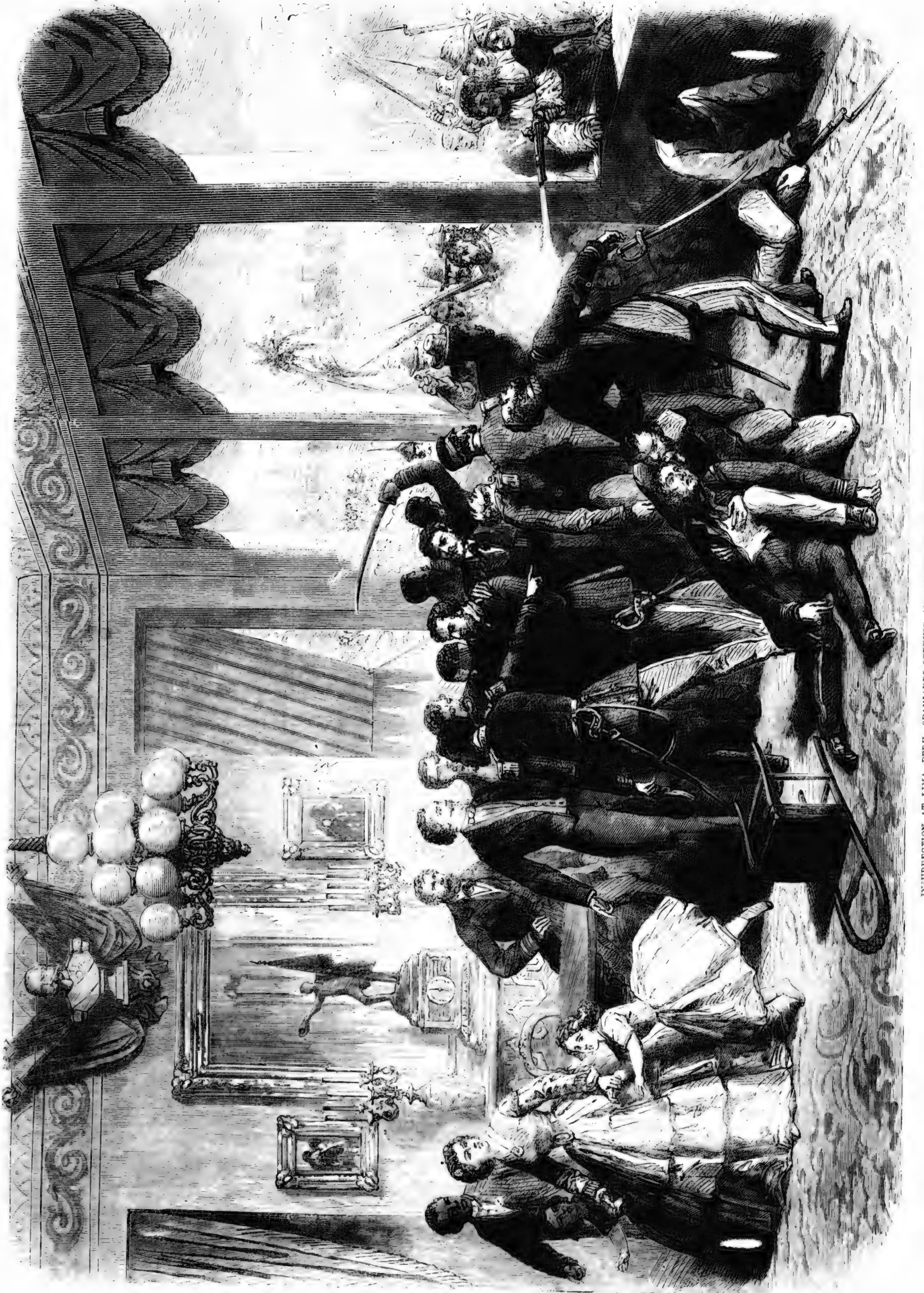
On the efforts of the party of resistance around the Pope, at Rome, the Duke says:—"I have not concealed from them the truth. I have displayed it to them in all its crudeness. 'I fear much,' said I to them, 'that you are forming strange illusions. You think, probably, that, in doing nothing, preparing nothing, and consenting to nothing, you are placing us in a serious embarrassment; that, terrified at the idea of the departure of the Pope, we shall end by abandoning the execution of the Convention; perhaps, even, you imagine, as several among you do not fear to say aloud, that the disorder occasioned by the departure of the Pope will shake the public authorities in France. Undeceive yourselves! Never did a vainer illusion enter the mind of man. If you will commit the folly of causing the Pope to leave Rome, do so. You will be most culpable to place that venerable Pontiff under the obligation of recommending, at his age, a new exile; but, as you will have proved by so doing that you will not, or cannot, do anything by yourselves, others will settle the affairs of Rome and the Papacy without you, and that will be, perhaps, the best means of terminating the matter. Indeed, as soon as you shall have left, this is, in my opinion, the course events will inevitably follow:—Nothing will be more easy than to organise Rome, according to the order of ideas which should conciliate the interests of the Holy See with the Italian feelings of the population. In accord with the Catholic Powers, and with Italy herself, we will establish at Rome a provisional Government, to administer the States of the Church in the name of the Pope, and to carry out during his absence the reforms and arrangements necessary. Under that Government, which will unite all the sympathies of Rome and of Italy, order will not be for a moment disturbed. As at Naples and Florence, the conservative spirit of the population will have no difficulty in overpowering the elements of disorder. Whether the French troops shall still be, or not be, at Rome, we shall know how in case of need to adopt the necessary measures for assuring tranquillity, and the Eternal City will await peaceably the day on which the Holy Father shall please to come and resume possession of the throne of his predecessors at the seat of the Papacy, relieved from all the causes which compromised its security. As to France, who will witness the departure of the Pope and its consequences with the greatest tranquillity. The efforts you make to excite the French clergy, and through that body the country, will be as vain as those you attempted at the last elections. You had, however, then an excellent pretext of distrust to furnish to the clergy—the presence at the Ministry of the Interior, to direct the elections, of the man who had just struck the society of St. Vincent de Paul so severely. You formed to yourselves the greatest illusions. In ascending from Rome the divers elements of opposition furnished by the ancient parties, you had no doubts of success. But if you had known France better you would have been aware that wherever the clergy, forgetting its duties, mingles in political conflicts, it produces on public opinion an effect contrary to its intentions, and that when the priest departs from his duties of peace and charity he only excites the public mind against him. You remember the result: it was so contrary to your hopes, and the impotence of the clerical party which had interfered in the elections was so complete, that the Government thought it prudent not to publish the details. To have done so would, however, have been rendering you a great service by enlightening you as to the state of France and the degree of influence of the clergy in political matters; but there would have been an injustice in wounding the dignity of so respectable a body by making it responsible for the faults which you had caused it to commit. Think of this seriously. In wishing to control the French clergy, and to oppose its duties towards the Church to its duties towards the State; in exercising a pressure on the Bishops in order that they, in their turn, may influence the Curés, take care not to stretch the cord so much that it will end by breaking! Already the most eminent men of the French clergy have uttered serious warnings. But, if you commit the fault of driving things to their last extremity; if, instead of coming to an understanding with Italy, you force the Pope into a fresh exile, be sure that the French clergy will not follow you in that adventure, and that the day on which you shall quit Rome will be the last of Ultramontanism in France."

THE PRINCE OF WALES visited the Great Eastern steam-ship at Sheerness on Wednesday, and inspected the ship, the Atlantic cable (of which about 2000 miles are on board), the machinery, &c.

THE QUEEN attained her forty-sixth year on Wednesday. Her birthday was celebrated by a grand parade of troops in front of the Horse Guards. The inspection was performed by the Prince of Wales in person. The usual loyal demonstrations were made in the metropolis, at Windsor, and elsewhere.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT happened on Wednesday at the new station of the North London Railway now being built in Liverpool-street. Several of the massive iron girders fell, carrying with them a large quantity of brickwork. Unfortunately, several workmen were seriously injured.

MR. BRIGHT ON REFORM.—Mr. Bright has written a letter to a friend at Carlisle upon the course to be adopted by the Liberals at the next election. He expresses a hope that they "will endeavour to bring their members up to the point of refusing to support a Government not willing to fulfil the pledges of 1859 and 1860;" for, he observes, "when it is a question of reform or expulsion from office, the Whig statesmen will decide in favour of reform." He further says, "Lord Palmerston is the real difficulty. He is not a Liberal, and the failure of the bill of 1860 was owing entirely to him. When he is out of the way, no Government can exist, on our side of the house, which will not deal with the question of reform."



INSURRECTION AT LIMA, PERU: SPANIARDS SEEKING AN ASYLUM IN THE FRENCH LEGATION.

THE INSURRECTION IN LIMA.

VERY recently we had to give some account of the revolution which was in progress in Paraguay, and of those *bouleversements* which were once more changing the governments and political arrangements of the South American republics. Our Engraving this week represents one of those terrible scenes which have lately occurred in Lima, where that fearful moral epidemic of misrule which is the curse of these Governments has produced another convulsion, requiring a very sharp and decisive remedy. The treaties of peace between Spain and Peru were awaiting signature in the Bay of Callao, Peru having recovered possession of its principal treasures, the Chincha Islands; protocols, signatures, ratifications had been exchanged; salutes had been fired; and everything went merry as a marriage bell. So cordial was the agreement, indeed, that the Spanish Admiral had given permission to about a hundred and fifty of his officers and men to land and seek such diversions as could be found on a tropical Sunday at Callao. A party of about ninety officers at once proceeded to the railway station and took the next train to Lima. The commander of the naval force himself paid a visit to the governor of the port, and while he was in the drawing-room a second company of sailors landed, and were at once assailed with stones by a motley crowd assembled on the mole. This was immediately followed by a general attack, and an indiscriminate *mélée* ensued. From two o'clock till seven, and in face of an imposing garrison fully able to have maintained order, a populace of negroes, half-castes, and Indians wrought itself into a perfect fury of riot against the Spanish inhabitants, breaking into and sacking their houses, and seriously wounding the French Consul, M. Tury, who had generously interposed in an endeavour to save the lives of some of the victims and to put a stop to the pillage. The news of this outbreak was immediately dispatched to Lima, where the people at once endeavoured to get up a similar revolution, and for that purpose collected in the streets in groups, which rapidly increased to an excited and lawless mob. The panic spread from the faubourgs to the very centre of the town, and it became evident that the Spanish officers who had come from Callao would be the first victims. With characteristic promptitude and courage, M. Vion, the French Chargé d'Affaires, immediately took steps to assemble the marines, who were scattered in various parts of the city, and dispatched messengers to the circus where the bull-fight was in full swing, and to the environs. After almost incredible trouble he had the satisfaction of seeing under his own roof nearly all the principal officers of the Spanish squadron. At eight o'clock things looked terribly serious, and a great concourse of rioters had assembled in front of the French Legation armed with long knives and revolvers. Officers, sailors, and Spanish residents, in a panic of terror, endeavoured to force a passage to the house, which was their only asylum. One of the officers, who had gained the protection of the Consul's room, was grievously wounded, and Mme. Vion herself was compelled to retreat from the apartments with her two children, since the crowd outside the windows had already commenced an attack upon those who sought her husband's protection. Cries and shouts for the death of the Spaniards were heard in the streets, but M. Vion stood between the ruffians and his guests, endeavouring to quell the tumult which threatened to invade his drawing-room. By nine o'clock a large force of cavalry and infantry swept through the streets, driving the crowd before them, and halted in an immovable column before the Consulate to secure the safety both of M. Vion and of those who were beneath his roof; but the Government was not yet re-assured, and so great was their panic that it was not till two days afterwards

that M. Vion was able to convey those whom he had saved to Callao and restore them, for the most part unharmed, to the keeping of Admiral Pareja.

Since this outbreak, a regular revolution has broken out, of a very formidable appearance for the Government of Lima. Colonel Prado, Prefect of Arequipa, aided by the chief officers of the troops in that city, to the number of about 1000 men, began this movement by a public declaration "that General Pezet has ceased to be chief of the republic by his violation of the Constitution and the laws of the country, in having concluded the treaty of the 27th of January last with the Spanish Admiral," and inviting all to join this movement "to place at the head of the Government the person legitimately entitled to the presidency." The port of Islay immediately followed in the movement, and Colonel Gamio, who came from Arequipa, gave orders to clear the custom-house at a discount of 50 per cent on tariff duties. This realised 70,000 dols., and possession was likewise obtained of 80,000 dols. more, sent by Govern-

ment, in a vessel of the Peruvian fleet, for payment of troops. On the 1st of March a proclamation similar to the above was responded to in Moquegua. On the 5th the troops in Tacna joined; Arica fell in also; and, under the influence of Montero—well known for his daring and bravery—two vessels of the Peruvian fleet (the *Lerzunde* and *Tumbes*) were handed over to the newly and self constituted military authorities. The Government steamer *Chalaco* was dispatched from Callao to Arica or Islay before intelligence of all this came to hand. She had 10,000 dols. on board, and it is supposed she will have sided also with Montero.

Admiral Mariategui, naval Commander-in-Chief of the Peruvian fleet, proceeds in the frigate *Amazonas*, with the *Sachaca* and another ship of the fleet, to recapture Islay and Arica and to put down this revolution. Naturally, no little anxiety prevails in Lima and in Callao. Many changes are being made; all military and civil officials suspected of leaning to revolutionary views are being dismissed.

WEST LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN THE FLORAL HALL, COVENT-GARDEN.

THE present is especially an age of exhibitions. Since the first grand display in Hyde Park there have been exhibitions in Dublin, Paris, New York, Manchester, a second in London, and now a second in the Irish capital. Paris is preparing for another display, and of

smaller exhibitions there have been several. London, especially, has distinguished itself by holding local displays, not the least successful of which is now open in the Floral Hall, Covent-garden. The success of the working men's exhibitions in the north and south of London induced a desire for an opportunity being offered for the display of the industry of the west. The Floral Hall, Covent-garden, was decided upon as the building most suitable in every way for the purpose, and accordingly that beautiful structure is now filled with an interesting and important collection of objects produced by working men. Some of these are specimens of handiwork in their own trades, and a large proportion consists of what may be styled amateur work done in the few leisure hours at their command. Round the walls are hung drawings and paintings, some of which display no little skill, all giving evidence of labour and patience. Some clever pen-and-ink drawings representing periodicals thrown together on a table are worth notice, and have attained to some notoriety in consequence of the Bank of England having claimed that they should be given up to them on account of drawings of £5 notes which they contain. Near the upper end of the room are some beautiful specimens of wood-carving, one of the best of which is a group of three giraffes and two hippopotami, done by H. Hunt, one of the keepers of animals at the Zoological Gardens. At the lower end of the room is a great oak side-board, carved in illustration of "Chevy Chase," a wonderful piece of work. There are also some admirable bits of carving of birds, &c. Much of the inlaid woodwork is admirable; and there are extraordinary specimens of fine turning, as well as a case of ornamental turning, containing banisters, chair-legs, &c. It is pleasing to see such works as the picture-screens and scrap-books made by workmen in their evenings at home; and some of these display no small amount of taste. We cannot do justice to the Exhibition in a short notice, but can only say that all sorts of things are there—from an invalid bedstead to a fishing-bag, and from the carved side-board above mentioned to Mrs. Horrell's beautiful beaded watch-pockets. Mr. Plimsoll exhibits an apparatus for demonstrating the existence and quantity of fire-damp in coal-pits, one portion of which consists of a balanced copper sphere, which, on the atmosphere around it becoming lighter, descends and completes a

galvanic circuit, setting a bell ringing; another instrument, showing the same in a different way, is exhibited beside it, also sent by Mr. Plimsoll. There are some very fine stuffed animals and birds; a case of foxes and cubs feeding on a game-cock, sent by Mr. F. Asked, is extremely lifelike. Performances on the organ are also given at intervals during the day, affording an amount of entertainment sufficient to please all comers.

THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE progress of the Dublin Exhibition is still highly satisfactory. The number of visitors to the building is large, the internal arrangements become more perfect from day to day, and the additions to the pictures and other objects of interest are of the most important character. We this week publish two more Engravings illustrative of incidents connected with the Exhibition, one of which represents the

DEPARTURE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES FROM KINGSTOWN.

THIS event took place on the afternoon of Friday, the 13th inst. The weather was far from propitious, for it rained as it only knows how to do in Ireland. Nevertheless, a large crowd assembled to witness his Royal Highness's departure. It being known that the Prince would arrive at Kingstown by carriage, and therefore



THE WEST LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN THE FLORAL HALL, COVENT-GARDEN.

have to descend at the commencement of the pier and walk on foot to the vessel, a guard of honour of the 78th Highlanders was formed between the two points. As the time drew near for the Prince's arrival the crowds assembled on the quays grew more dense, and the ships of war in the harbour—the Royal George, Black Prince, and Liverpool, with the Swedish corvette Thor—had all their pennons aloft. At a quarter to five a signal was given which speedily had all the yards manned, not excepting those of the Swedish ship; and the hardy sailors remained aloft in the rain then falling for nearly an hour. About that time it was announced that the carriages containing the Prince and the Lord Lieutenant were rapidly approaching, and presently they drove up by Longford-avenue to the pier. Hearty cheering greeted the alighting of the Prince, and was continued as he walked along the pier with Lady Wodehouse on his arm. Immediately on his arrival at the Royal yacht the guns from the battery on shore sent a hollow boom across the water; and immediately the men-of-war in the harbour replied with a series of similar roars, the echo of which sank and died along the Wicklow hills. The Prince went into the deck saloon of the vessel almost immediately on going on board; and there a banquet had been prepared for a very select party.

During the dinner the band of the 10th Hussars, stationed on the pier, played some very excellent music. Shortly before seven o'clock the party rose from table, and the Prince appeared on deck to bid farewell to those of his guests who had to go on shore. His Royal Highness thanked the Lord Mayor for the kind reception he had met, both from his Lordship and the people of Dublin; and the Lord Mayor promptly replied that the people of Dublin had been proud to see his Royal Highness, and hoped to see him again. Whereupon the Dublin portion of the guests went on shore, and everything being got ready, the Victoria and Albert steamed out of the harbour, while the men-of-war again burst forth with a thundering cheer, which was taken up and prolonged by the crowds of people on the quays. In a few minutes the Royal yacht had rounded the East Pier Light and began rapidly to lessen in the distance; and so Albert Edward Prince of Wales terminated his visit to Ireland.

BALL IN THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.

On the evening of the Prince's departure there was a grand ball in the Exhibition building, under the auspices of the Irish Academy of Music, which for the last twelve years has gradually progressed in usefulness and popularity. On this occasion, however, for the first time, the committee who direct the academy gave a grand public ball for the purpose of obtaining some substantial addition to the funds at their disposal. It was the first fête of the season, and will scarcely be exceeded in brilliancy by any to which the citizens of Dublin may look forward. The visitors began to arrive about ten o'clock, and in less than half an hour the transept was alive with shifting colours. In the nave the band of the 78th Highlanders performed, under the direction of Mr. Smalley, an excellent selection of operatic music. It was not until eleven o'clock that the dancing began in the great concert hall, which had been specially fitted up for the occasion. The orchestra was occupied by a band of more than forty performers, conducted by Mr. Harry Hardy. Shortly after eleven o'clock his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Wodehouse arrived, accompanied by Lord St. Lawrence, Mr. E. Wodehouse, Private Secretary; Colonel Musters, the Hon. Ralph Harbord, the Hon. H. Leeson, the Hon. Mr. Scott, Captain Willis, Mr. Wodehouse, A.D.C.; Captain Boyle, Captain O'Connell, Mr. De Cetto, Mr. H. Arkwright, and Mr. Howard. His Excellency was received by the Duke of Leinster, the Marquis of Kildare, the Lord Mayor, Mr. Hercules McDonnell, Mr. F. W. Brady, and a number of the warmest supporters of the Academy, and was conducted to the dais, where he remained for some time looking on at the dancers. The Lord Lieutenant and Lady Wodehouse then proceeded into the concert-room and took part in the Faust Quadrilles. At this time the aspect of the room was exceedingly brilliant. There was some crushing, but little confusion, and the picturesque mingling of dresses of all hues made up for the absence of regularity which characterises more formal assemblies. Geniality and animation were the most conspicuous features in the scene; and from the hour of his Excellency's arrival until four o'clock next morning the dancing never flagged. How enchanting was the appearance of the transept, how pleasant the promenade, how grateful the effect of the music, it is impossible fully to describe. The committee who manage the academy deserve to be congratulated upon the brilliant success of a fête intended to advance the interests of an institution which at once increases the number of competent musicians and raises the standard of popular taste. About 2500 ladies and gentlemen were present.

OPERA, CONCERTS, ETC.

THE glory is departing from our tenors. We hear nothing of Tamberlik—Giuglini has lost his voice, and something more—Wachtel does not improve—Mario cannot recall tones that have gone for ever.

On the other hand, recent years, and especially the present season, have been highly favourable to the growth and development of prima donnas. Since the production of "Faust e Margherita" the frequenters of Covent Garden have heard no less than five Margarets—Miolan-Carvalho, Pauline Lucca, Adelina Patti, Artôt, and Berini—while Mario has still been constant to the part of Faust. Nor, indeed, does any other Faust seem possible. In sopranos, however, there is a greater variety. This year alone Mr. Gye has some half-dozen new ones to show us; one or two of them really promising, and none without a certain sort of merit. But the prize specimens are admirable; and, counting those at the Royal Italian Opera and those at Her Majesty's Theatre together, there are no less than five, each capable of drawing a full house by her own attractiveness alone. At the Royal Italian Opera, when Mdle. Patti has not been singing, the great "attraction" this season has been Mdle. Fioretti; and now special visits will be made for the sake of Mdle. Pauline Lucca. So at Her Majesty's Theatre, all the striking success is obtained by the two prima donnas, the attractiveness of Mdle. Titiens being only counterbalanced by that of Mdle. de Murska.

The British public is easily appeased, and Mdle. Pauline Lucca, on returning to London, has been received as only the most indulgent parent would receive the most repentant prodigal child. Why did Mdle. Lucca leave us last year? The mystery has never been cleared up. Was it the "blacks" of smoky London that frightened her away, as one Berlin journalist maintained at the time? Or did the late hours frighten her, as was also asserted? The performances at the Royal Italian Opera finish about two hours later than the performances at the Berlin theatre, and this, we were told, was too much for Mdle. Lucca's delicate health. If such had really been the case, we should have been among the first to call upon Mr. Gye to adopt earlier hours. Or was she dissatisfied with her reception in England? If so, we are afraid Mdle. Lucca must be very hard indeed to please.

But, whatever fault Mdle. Lucca may have to find with England, she at least cannot complain of not being appreciated. When she appeared on Tuesday night as Margherita, the applause which greeted her was, it is true, rendered discordant by a few hisses; but these uncouth demonstrations were soon put a stop to, their only effect being to call forth counter-demonstrations from the great body of the audience. Mdle. Lucca has improved since last year in the only respect in which improvement seemed possible. She gives us a somewhat less vivacious rendering of the part of Margherita. She must think us very dull not to be charmed with her animation and brightness; but these qualities do charm us. Only, while we admire them in Mdle. Lucca herself, to whom they are natural, we do not recognise them as belonging to the character which she undertakes to represent.

We omitted last week to speak of the excellent Monday Popular Concert given for the benefit of Mdme. Arabella Goddard. No one has a fairer right to encouragement from the supporters of these classical entertainments than Mdme. Goddard, who was associated with them from the beginning, and who has lent them her constant and zealous co-operation. Her still-unforgotten musical

evenings, in 1856, 1857, and 1858, had, no doubt, some influence in promoting the establishment of others appealing to a more mixed and far more numerous public; and the fact of her overlooking self-interest and abandoning her own soirées, in order to afford aid and countenance to an undertaking which was calculated largely to extend whatever benefits may attach to the wider diffusion of a taste for genuine music, entitles her to some consideration. True, her claims have been warmly acknowledged, for among those who continually perform at the Monday Popular Concerts there is no greater or more universally recognised favourite than herself. Her "benefit" invariably attracts one of the largest and most brilliant attendances of the season, and the last was no exception to the rule, St. James's Hall being literally crowded in every part.

One of the clever people who are too knowing to be taken in by mere excuses has been writing to the *Daily Telegraph* to expose Mr. Sims Reeves. Mr. Sims Reeves absented himself from the dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund on the ridiculous plea that, being very unwell, he was unable to sing. A writer calling himself a "Lover of Music," but who can scarcely pretend to have much regard for musicians and singers, has discovered that Mr. Reeves could not have been ill on Saturday, inasmuch as he sang on Monday (so, at least, the "Lover of Music" asserts) at Buckingham Palace. "It was not until I opened my *Daily Telegraph* this morning," says the correspondent, with charming irony, "that I became aware of that singer's rapid recovery, he having been well enough to assist at the Court concert last evening. Prestige and pay," he continues, "seem to be the best specifics for the ailments of public vocalists, whose restoration to health is thereby effected with a speed and certainty quite marvellous." The fact is, Mr. Sims Reeves was, on Monday, as on Saturday, far too ill to sing. He is peculiarly liable to inflammation of the mucous membrane of the throat, and he now suffers from a similar affection of the eyes. He meant to sing at the Palace, as he meant to sing at the Freemasons' Tavern; but in each case found himself, at the last moment, unable to do so. The "Lover of Music," then, with all his ingenuity, his amiability, and his talent for elegant satire, is wrong in his facts. The music set down for Mr. Reeves at her Majesty's concert was sung by Signor Gardoni.

Literature.

NEW NOVELS.

Captain Masters's Children. A Novel. By THOMAS HOOD, Author of "A Disputed Inheritance." 3 vols. Sampson Low and Co.
On Guard. By ANNIE THOMAS, Author of "Denis Donne," &c. Three volumes. Chapman and Hall.

A good many years have passed away since we used to see in corners of periodicals the signature, "Thomas Hood the Younger;" but Mr. Hood, as known to the public which reads him, is certainly no younger. He is like a boy bowling a hoop along the streets, with a bunch of buttercups in the disengaged hand; and long may he keep his youthful way of looking at life. Most people, when they get into the streets, let fall the buttercups; but Mr. Hood never allows the smoke and dust to get into his head. He is one of the brightest and most agreeable of writers, and "Captain Masters's Children" is sure to find a large public. The author sketches women, children, and the common people with peculiar intelligence, and his girls in particular are admirable. The novel before us contains a wonderful variety of character, and all the drawing is impartial as well as pleasant. A sincere dedication to "William Jeffray Prowse" is one of the most delightful things in the book—very short, very boyish, and very true.

It is impossible to say what degree of consolidation of faculty may be possible to Mr. Hood, or what degree he aims at; but, on the whole, we feel no difficulty in saying that even writing like that of these charming stories of his is not good exercise for him, however it may please his readers. Now and then we alight upon a passage which suggests that the writer's best course lies upon a path which requires much more self-discipline, and much less activity. We are mistaken if Mr. Hood does not find his three volumes a very irksome task—in a particular direction, which shall be a secret between him and ourselves. Now and then, too, we come upon hasty splashes of opinion upon very difficult questions, and we cannot help wishing them away. Thinking is a very difficult task; it is the work of solitary, self-denying hours; it is full of wear and tear and intense anxiety; and it irritates people, who make it the business of their lives, to be told offhand, for instance, that there is something in blood which may make people noble or ignoble. Such a passage can do nothing but mischief. What is "blood?" We all admit the existence of connate qualities; and to be born of a good stock is, no doubt, a probable advantage. But the whole subject is beset with difficulty. But until we are told what is meant by "blood," it is not half so specific to say that a man born of "noble blood" is likely to be noble in character as to say that a man born of a father with a large liver is likely to be energetic. As a matter of fact, we frequently see persons of "noble blood" utterly destitute of nobleness. We can think, as we write this article, of a dozen whom we know to be of the very "scum of the earth;" loathsome beasts, liars, thieves, unmitigated scoundrels, and cads. On the other hand, we can think of very "plebeian" people who are nobly good. Perhaps that is the "blood" of their ancestors? But at how many removes? Ten, or five hundred? The question lies in a nutshell. God did not make noblemen; he made men. Some men acquired an ascendancy over other men, and were called "noble." If these men are faithful to their position, not otherwise, they have opportunities of culture which place their children also in positions favourable for the growth of noble feeling. But the son of a nobleman is, as often as not, a stupid cad; and, on the other hand, the first costermonger you meet in the street may have in him the "blood" which is to originate the lords of the after world.

But this is only by the way, and Mr. Hood can well afford to spare from his pages every line which would be obnoxious to criticism of the kind. He has produced in "Captain Masters's Children" an interesting story, in which picturesque and humorous passages abound, and in which the reader is never made to despair of life.

Although "On Guard" misses much of those daring and startling characteristics which so highly recommended "Denis Donne," it yet has so much recklessness in common with that performance that, without the author's name, the master-touch would be known at one pulsation.

The heart would hear it and beat
Had it lain for centuries dead.

The boldness and daring are of another quality, and are shown remarkably in the first paragraph, which is about the most refreshing piece of novel-writing since the fine frenzy of Miss Braddon conceived the secret of Lady Audley. "The first scene opens as the last one will close, probably, quietly enough; for this is to be no story of guilt and horror, of murder, mystery, or machinations. The actors in it will be of the order amongst whom we live, and move, and have our being. Upon these I, their historian, will rely for creating an interest to the full as deep and true as can be obtained by the powerful portrayal of any or all of the cardinal vices." However, although the promise, as it may be called, is amply carried out, the interest is not made to turn upon the cardinal virtues. The people are just good, bad, and indifferent; but their several characters "bite in," and their movements are as pretty and exciting as skirraising at a review. To begin with, there is an admirable contrast between two men—Stanley Villars, a young clergyman of rigid principles, who does his work fairly, and avoids all the newfangled "schools" of the Church; and Claude Walsingham, a light cavalry Major, of exqually excellent qualities in his service, but being, at all events, no better disciplined than the majority of young Majors as far as society goes. These gentlemen have equal personal and worldly advantages. They are the fastest friends possible, and each respects

as much as possible certain opposite tones and styles in the other. Bella Vane, a great heiress, is the heroine. She is very self-willed, but perfectly tamable, with certain treatment, and, whilst her best wishes are in favour of "being good," and her real characteristics are generous and amiable, she is always happening to get into little scrapes, which lead to little lectures, and the bitterness of which mosquito-like things are alone capable. Bella Vane is engaged to Stanley Villars; but circumstances make her the bride of Claude Walsingham instead. But there is little or nothing for which either party can be blamed, and all are something like friends, Stanley Villars himself performing the marriage ceremony. After this, though, Stanley is a changed man. He leaves the Church, and devotes himself to London literature and dissipation, of both of which Miss Thomas seems to know precisely nothing, as she copies them on her pages in Siamese-twins fashion. All this, together with the very stupid marriage which Stanley makes, is bad policy, bad example; but it is not unlike life, as some men make it. The last few pages have a moral. During all this time Bella has been doing everything for the best, and it has always been turning out for the worst. She is eternally "nagged" about her indiscretions by her husband's family, and is "on guard" throughout, lest she be discovered in the commission of a virtuous action, acting upon impulse, and so forth. Ultimately, she is victorious, but, with many of the others, it may be surmised, sorrowful enough for a while. These principal characters are thoroughly lifelike and dramatic, as is also Grace Harper, a schemer, who, being disappointed of Claude for herself, takes her revenge out of Claude's wife in a most friendly and serpentine manner. Fifty others must consent to pass as nameless flashes of light, necessary enough to the general effect, but requiring no more description than is usually allotted to the "fifty thousand additional lamps." Miss Thomas's style is still full of vigour, and touches of observation are flung as largess of which the Sultana never could be in want. For the rest, the book is not unlike a stable. It is all over horses. Or it is like a race. The excitement is intense at Tattenham Corner in vol. iii., and the favourite wins. But, from the first, the betting has been on Bella Vane.

NEW POEMS.

Murmurings in the May and Summer of Manhood. Poems. By EDMUND FALCONER. Tinsley Brothers.

Angel Visits, and Other Poems. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Mr. Falconer, having recently had some success with a volume of verse, written, it may be presumed, lately, now takes the curious step of publishing another volume written twenty years ago. In the storm-brewing '45, he wrote many lines bitter, even savage, against England's treatment of Ireland; but, although he now looks upon England as Ireland's best friend and saviour, he leaves the lines untouched. He thinks that revision might interfere with the pleasure taken by a reader in comparing an author's style at various periods. How many readers of most modern verse-writers thus psychologically indulge themselves there may be doubts; but if there be but one or one million, he or they will scarcely deny that Mr. Falconer's earlier efforts are worthy of preservation and likely to please many who are too catholic to pin their faith to the two great ones of the present day. The volume consists of two poems—"O'Ruark's Bride" and "Man's Mission." The first is a story materially affecting the history of Ireland, and showing the cruelty of the Saxon as early as the twelfth century. O'Ruark, King of Leitrim, is away on a pious pilgrimage, during which his bride, Devoirgoil, transfers her affections, or, at all events, her honour, to MacMurrough, King of Leinster. O'Ruark takes certain revenge; but MacMurrough seeks Henry II. of England, and, with Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, effects the first English invasion of Ireland. The story is told in good, flowing couplets, of which many are strongly and gracefully poetic, and only just a few made needlessly prosaic. Here is a description of, or reflection on, the face of MacMurrough, which may be fairly looked upon as an average passage:—

Tho' past the prime of life, few signs betray'd
His well-approved maturity decay'd;
Time had not thin'd his locks nor changed their hue—
Bright auburn still, luxuriantly they grew;
Say that about his eyes some lines there were—
For Pleasure leaves as deep a trace as Care—
You might not count on passions in their grave,
His heart supplied a brotherhood as brave;
If from his cheek its summer bloom had fled,
Blanch'd by the memory of his victims dead,
It wither'd not like theirs, but, clear and bright,
It match'd his brow, most delicately white.
Such freaks will Nature play. She gifts the knave,
E'en from his cradle of his lusts the slave,
With every attribute—but one—the heart,
To act on earth almost a Godlike part.
Time vainly seeks to master or control,
His form impassive, unsubdu'd his soul.

As the veriest trifle, it may be mentioned that Mr. Falconer has a line at page 29 which is within a word or two of Byron:—

In form a woman, though in years a child.

Perhaps both poets have read Pope on Gay:—

In wit a man, simplicity a child—

conveying the moral instead of the physical attributes.

"Man's Mission" is the didactic autobiography of a hermit told to a youthful wanderer in search of fame. The hermit is unsuccessful, and (we think, for the story is obscure) resolves to continue on a recent resolution to do good service to mankind, whether mankind will allow him to be successful or not. The youthful aspirant after fame will not be convinced. He vanishes in the night and—it is twenty years since—has not been heard of up to the present day.

The anonymous author of "Angel Visits" writes in a reasoning and convincing manner, and with great command over rhythm and poetic expression. His powers are generally what the world calls "pretentious;" but they can be properly described by saying that they are ambitious—no small flutters of pleasant verse, but serious affairs of a kind and tone which would convey a ridiculous idea were they one whit less felicitously handled. The "Angel Visits" are, for instance, to a poet; not one familiar to Paternoster-row, but one who harangues the multitude. The angel gives him good teaching, by showing that the world will not be reverent to him until he has learnt reverence for something higher than the world. Another angel puts an irreligious or doubting outcast on the right track; but this is in thought and colouring a broad imitation of Tennyson's "Two Voices." Many of the minor poems which fill up the volume are of a decidedly high class, on various subjects, but generally tinged with a fervent religious glow. Amongst the best of these is the "Soliloquy of a Roman Catholic in a Protestant Cemetery." The following is an excellently-thoughtful passage:—

They followed sects—who scorn the guides to obey
Ordained to lead them home,
And taking by-lanes for the King's highway,
Now lost and wildered roam;
Who, daring to forsake the only Ark,
And on frail rafts to leap,
While in mid-voyage o'er the waters dark,
Must perish in the deep.
Unworthy limbs! that struggled to be free,
Till from the Body torn—
Boughs, broken from the stately mustard-tree,
And on each wild wind borne
A moment, yet whose fate must quickly be
To fall and die around—
Such are the sects! proclaiming liberty,
Yet with corruption bound.

No knee for them has e'er this soil embraced,
No voice has raised its tones;
Yet, something more than name and age is traced
On these sepulchral stones.

Such volumes as these before us are no mean specimens of our poetic age.

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